# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Facebook Worship Service December 27, 2020



God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor
Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15
Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12
(Times are occasionally flexible with monthly meetings,
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)
William C. Solomon, Interim Organist
Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word
6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607
Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

www.trinitylutheran-nn.com

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center. Cover image from https://st-thomaseugene.net/2018/12/28/festival-of-lessons-carols/

#### **Announcements**

## **Gathering**

## Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son in given.

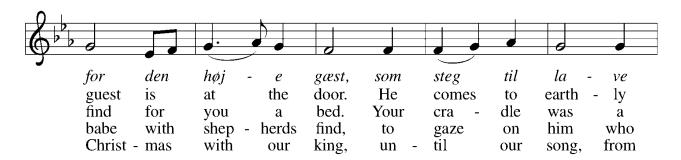
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

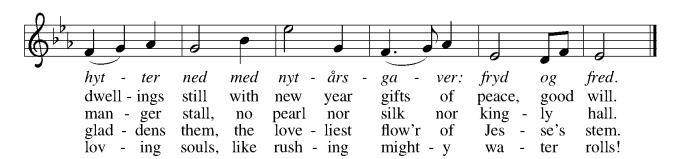
# **Gathering Hymn**

## The Bells of Christmas

**ELW 298** 







## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and

#### **Lessons and Carols**

Lesson 1: Isaiah 9:2-7 Anne Obara

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how see thee lie! still we For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a bove How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n! ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im-parts to bless - ings So hu - man hearts the of his heav'n. out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in to - day. cast us



yet thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. in O geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly morn-ing stars, to birth, this world of No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in sin, an - gels the We hear the Christ-mas great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are to - night. met in thee and sing to God the king, and peace to the earth! prais - es all dear Christ en - ters in. where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the a - bide with us, our come to Lord Im - man - u - el! oh, us,

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



- 1 Blessed be the God of
- Is ra el who comes to set us free will God still the cov e nant re call, prom-ised mer - cy 2 With
- child, as proph-et the Lord you will pre-pare the of



and rais - es up new oath once sworn to the tell God's peo - ple to

hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree. A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all; they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets we might wor - ship that Then shall God's mer - cy

long de-clared that with a might-y arm of - fer lives of with-out fear and praise, from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

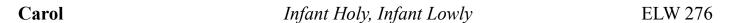


God would turn back our ho - li - ness and in drive a - way the to

en - e - mies and all who wish us harm. righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days. gloom of death and lead us in - to peace. Lesson 4: Luke 2:1-7 Anne Obara

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



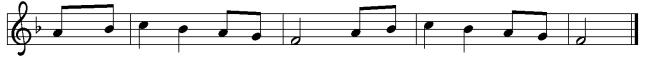


- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new





Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

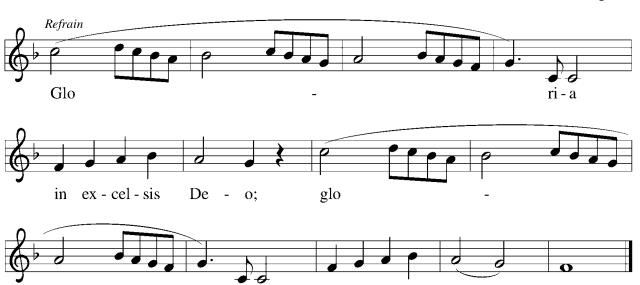
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, sweet ly sing ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi-lee? Why your joy ous strains pro-long?
- Come to Beth le hem and see him whose birth the an gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



ri - a

in ex-cel-sis

De

o.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was

righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y! to Mar - y! Word made flesh, hail, hail the the babe, the son of joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y! In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

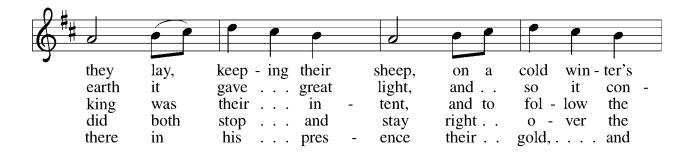
'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

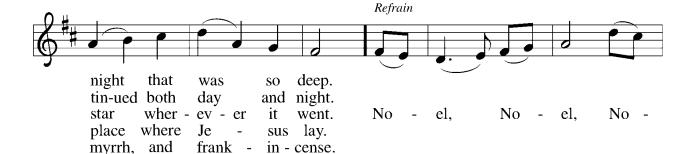
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

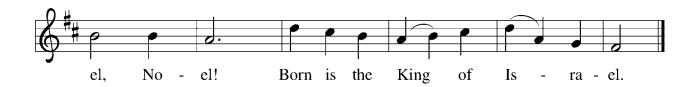




cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; fields in where be - yond . . them far; in . . . the east . . and to the from coun for a wise. . men came . . try far; seek to Beth - le - hem . . rev - 'rent - ly . . . it took . . its rest; there it and up - on . . . their knee, fered and of -







Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

come, let

us

a



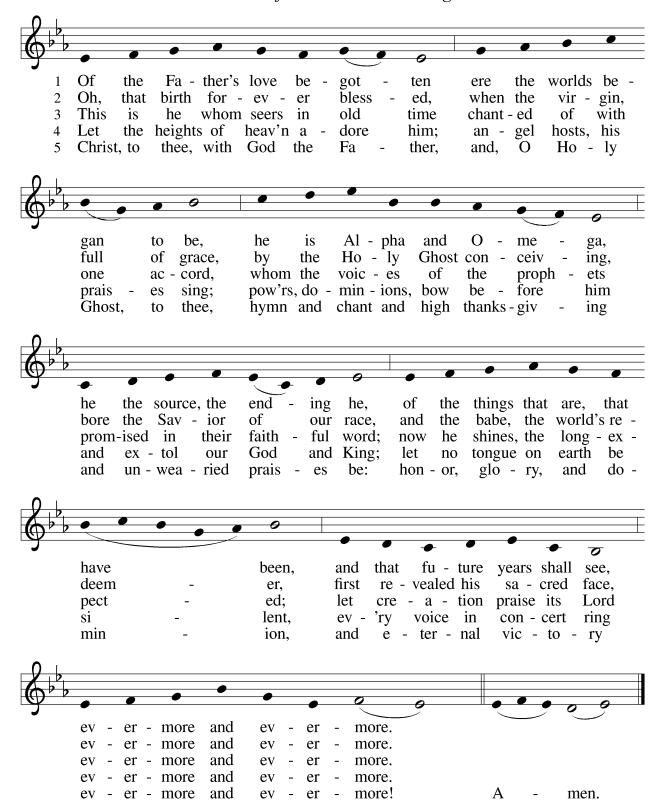
dore

him,

Christ

the Lord!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to be come children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



## **Responsive Prayer**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

Amen.



#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vacation:** Pastor Tina will be on vacation Monday, December 28 through Saturday, January 2. Please contact the church office if you have any emergency. She will be back on Sunday, January 3.

Church and School offices will be closed on Monday, December 28 and Friday, January 1.

Offering Boxes and Poinsettias: If you paid for a poinsettia for Christmas, you may come pick it up while the students are still on their winter break between Sunday, December 27 and Sunday, January 3. They will be located in the main school foyer. Also, offering boxes for 2021 will be on a table in the same general area as the poinsettias. Those who are using the online giving through VANCO are kindly requested to let the church office know if you still would like to have your offering box. Remember to bring your key fob if you decide to come on the weekend and wear a mask. PLEASE NOTE: All poinsettias will be given away after January 3. All offering boxes will be mailed after that date also.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ...

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** There will ne **NO Bible Study** on **Tuesday, December 29.** Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 5.

**Update: Usher Training** This training has been postponed until after the new year.

**Theology on Tap:** The next Theology on Tap discussion via Zoom will be on Thursday, **January 28 at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. Please join us!

Worship and Music Committee: Next Worship and Music committee meeting is January 5 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The date to remove Christmas decorations/degreen the church will be on Saturday, January 9, time TBA.

**VANCO Online giving:** The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

Procedure for online giving:

Go to http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/

Press the green "online giving" link.

#### PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Recovery with family: Anne Evans; Nursing Homes: Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.207); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); Shut-in at Home: Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

New Address for Pete Mizelle as of 12-11-2020: 690 Castle Rock Drive, Banner Elk, NC, 28604 and new cell phone number 828-783-9262 as of December 11.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen and Maria Goldsby, requested by Kathy Stevens; Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend), requested by Patricia Fielding; Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother), requested by the Ardis family; Jack and Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters), requested by Grant and Donna Owens; Bonnie Carlson, requested by Dave Carlson; Jacque and Harry Hartman, requested by Nancy Lindfors; Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker), requested by Patricia Wessler; George Kingston, requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; Michael May, requested by Jon May; Jan Titus (sister-in-law), requested by Glen and Betty Titus; Jessica, requested by Laura Davis; Betty Hasel (COVID); Paul Sawarringim (COVID); Millie Christensen (COVID); Charles Kessler (COVID exposure); David Hampton (husband of Sandy Hampton, TLS Front Office); Dee Klapperich; the friends and family of Karen Dutton (mother of Kristen Turnage) and the friends and family of Charley Smith.

<u>Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty</u>: James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of one of our members, Charles "Charley" Frederick Smith, upon his recent passing. No other information is available at the present time. Please keep his ex-wife Mary Ann, daughter, Cathy Smith, son, Michael Smith and family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."