



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

We invite our guests as well as members to fill out the blue sheet, found inside your bulletin, and place in the offering plate.

Share your story!

Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.

Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!

Find us on Facebook at:

Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo

Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic

THE VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo

Paul Manz
(1919 – 2009)

Ringing of the Tower Bells

Please stand as you are able.

THE OPENING HYMN

The Bells of Christmas "Det kimer nu til julefest"

ELW 298

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined; (Is 9:2)

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. (Lk 2:7)

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6)**

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. (Jn 3:16)
**O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, O Come let us
adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

May the Good News of great joy, light and life, grace and peace, be
with you all. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human
nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace
adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly “W Zlobie Lezy”

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

The first reading for Christmas Day is recorded in Isaiah, the 52nd Chapter.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 98

The congregation will read responsively the bold-faced type

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who
comes to judge the earth.**

**⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-12

The second reading for today is recorded in Hebrews, the 1st Chapter.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, if able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to Saint John



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

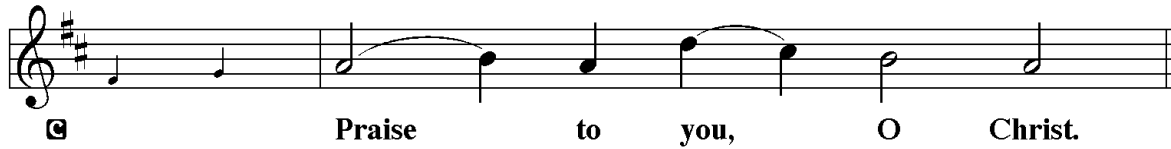
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Has Come “Un Flambeau”

ELW 292

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Loving God, you come among us in Christ Jesus. Grant to your whole church the humility to recognize our sinfulness, and direct us to work toward unity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all the earth, all of creation rejoices in you. Endow us with wisdom to care for all that you have made as we give thanks for the beautiful intricacy of your creative work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Lord, you love mercy and justice. Grant to the leaders of all nations good judgment that leads them to work for justice, peace, and equality for all. We pray especially for all men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you promise to be with us always. Make your comforting presence known to new parents, families, those who live alone, those who are sick, those who are hungry, and all who grieve. We pray for all those we now name out loud, and those we remember in our hearts... . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, with the shepherds you call us to not be afraid. Free us from our fears so that we share the great joy of your love with everyone. Bless our ministries to the wider community. Strengthen all communities of faith, including the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you guard the lives of the faithful and you have revealed your love to us through the lives of your saints. Inspired by their witness, embolden us to share your love in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace

*An Offering Plate can be found at the entrance –
please place envelopes in the plate as you exit.*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

God with us: **You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.**

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

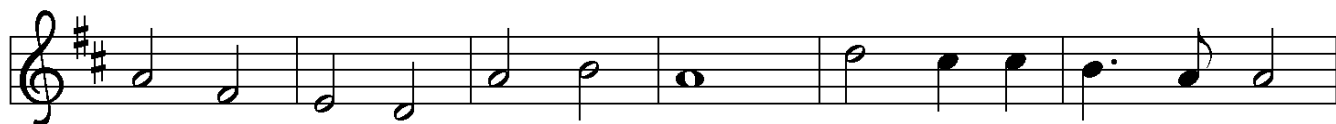
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

THE HYMN DURING COMMUNION

The First Noel "The First Nowell"

ELW 300 (vs. 1-4)

Please stand as you are able.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain “Go Tell It”

ELW 290

THE DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God’s people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Noel Toccata

Gordon Young
(1919 – 1998)



A Few Announcements

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Immediately following the 10:30 meeting, we will be holding a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish to pass and join us for fun and fellowship.

Our community meal ministry/Sue's Supper, will be hosting a free dinner on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30pm. Please note Sue's Supper has moved to the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We will hold a brief evening worship following supper. The entire church family is invited to this event for food and fellowship.

Changes to the Church Paper: We will continue to publish our Church Paper every other month. However, **beginning in January 2020**, we will no longer be mailing paper copies without a print subscription. You will have the option of subscribing to a paper edition. The cost would be \$10 per year and you will need to call the church office to sign up for this delivery. You will be able to find the newsletter on our website, or you may sign up to receive it via email. **Please know that copies are always available on the tables at the church or chapel entrance ways or at the church office.** If you would like to sign up electronically, subscribe to your print edition, or if you have any questions about this transition, please call the church office at 716-886-2400.

Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church



Many thanks to today's reader, Justin Pomietlarz



On behalf of Pastor Miller, Pastor Maynor
and The Church Council ~

Many thanks to our talented staff and
gifted volunteers for all their hard work
this Christmas Season

A blessed Christmas to all!

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II
The Rev. Brenda Maynor
Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

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