



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 12, 2021
Third Sunday in Advent
Celebrating our 143rd Anniversary

Holy Communion - 8:30 & 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 creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.

We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.

We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

For the love of one another, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that our members and guests fill out the blue sheet and leave at your seat in the pew.*

We look forward to continuing to update our practices as we move forward.

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience!

Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.

*You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo,
on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff*

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from the *Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes* BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn “Rejoice, Rejoice”

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it. His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy.

And you and I know it.

Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.

In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.

So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does.

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able.

Let us pray together.

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for *all*, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

So rest in this good news:

We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

While we light the Advent Wreath we sing together:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: ELW 257 vs. 1, 2 & 3

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there. So I want you to know—I am walking your way, *we* are walking your way, and we are looking for a light. And our feet are dirty—we've lost our way a time or two. And our bags are heavy—we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs. But we're on our way. We're looking for your light. We're listening for your word. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on. We are on our way home. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The first reading for the Third Sunday of Advent is recorded in Zephaniah, the 3rd Chapter.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE SOLO

Zion's Walls from *Old American Songs*

Aaron Copland
(1900 – 1990)

Erin Alexander, *mezzo-soprano*

Come fathers and mothers come, sisters and brothers come, join us in singing the praises of Zion. O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion? We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anonymous, 16th Century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.
Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

The second reading for today is recorded in Philippians, the 4th Chapter.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



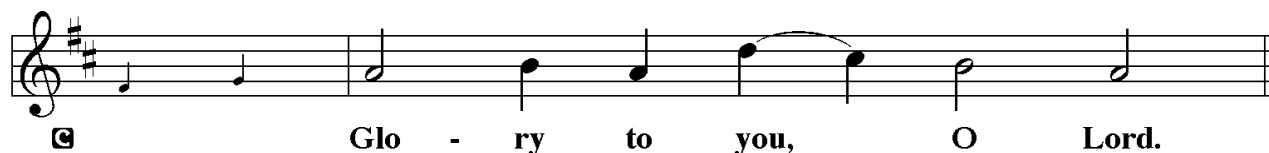
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

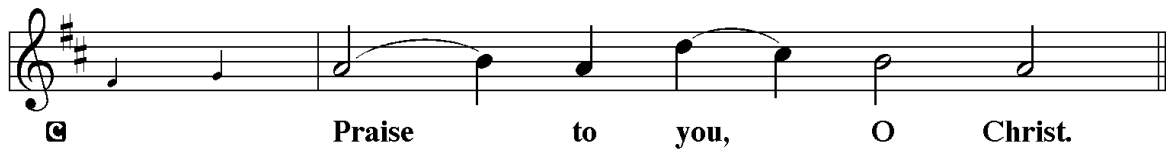
¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll

Please stand as you are able.

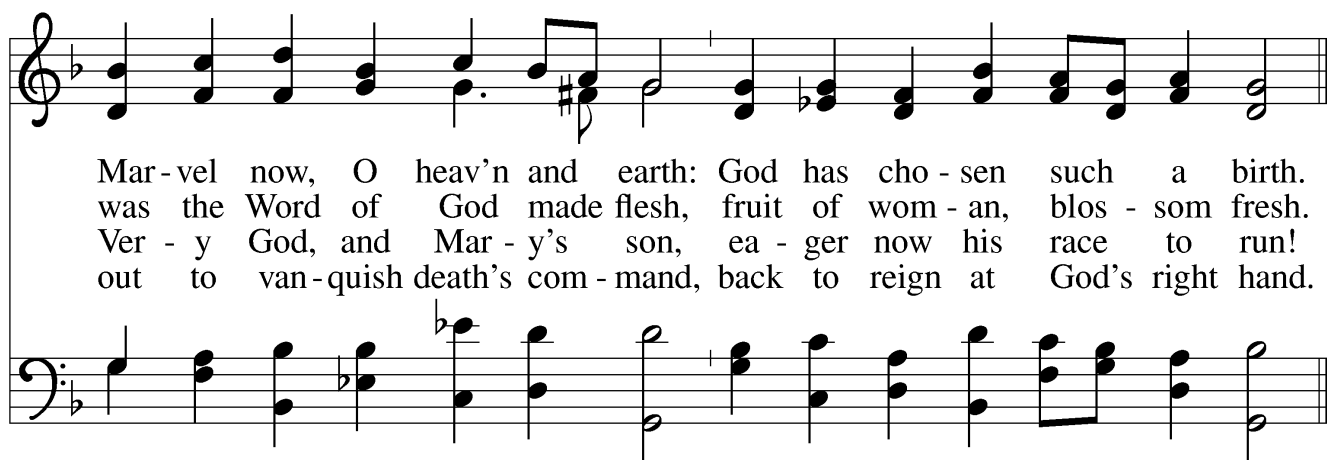
SERMON HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

ELW 263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of open doors and porch lights, of welcome mats and candles in the window—we cannot thank you enough for your open door policy. You are forever welcoming us home.

In a world that puts hand rails on park benches so that those without a roof over their heads cannot lay down, you offer something radically different. You welcome all of us, just as we are. You paint a picture of a world that could be. You remind us that there is enough love to go around, and that neighbor helping neighbor is who we are called to be.

Thank you for the voice in the wilderness that calls to us. Thank you for the radical welcome and the unchanging love.

We pay for the children of our congregation, especially Angelo, Mer'Liah, Henry and Anthony.

We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families.

Today, God, we give extra gratitude for the people and places that are home to us, but we also pray for all those without a home.

We pray for immigrants and refugees navigating the waters of trauma, change, and loss. We pray for those who experience homelessness and for those scraping together every coin to pay last month's rent. We pray for those who do not feel at home in their body— assigned a gender or an identity that does not fit their spirit. We pray for those who do not feel at home in your church—wounded by strict rules or judgmental accusations. We pray for those who long to build a home with another, but instead find themselves eating another meal alone.

We remember the life, love, and faith of our dear brother, Frank DeSabio.

God, there are so many who need a home, so help us be builders of that new day. Give us the courage of John, who saw a way forward so clearly. Turn our words into action and our conviction into change.

Gracious God, you are a God of open doors and welcome home celebrations. Teach us to be the same. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

*You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.*

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

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

*Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate
located at the exit.*

(8:30)

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

The Road to Bethlehem from *On the Road to Bethlehem*
text: Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Jake Heggie
(b. 1961)

Erin Alexander, *mezzo-soprano*

The Savior must have been
A docile Gentleman --
To come so far so cold a Day
For little Fellowmen --
The Road to Bethlehem
Since He and I were Boys
Was leveled, but for that 'twould be
A rugged Billion Miles--

(10:30)

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

17th Century French Carol

Text: *Liturgy of St. James*
paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie (1829–1885)

Arr. Gustav Holst
(1874–1934)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood He will give to all the faithful His own Self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanquish as the darkness clears a way. At His feet the six winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, Alleluia Lord most High!" Amen.

The people asked John, “What should we do?” I’ve asked myself that a million times in my life. How do I make a difference?

Can I really do anything that could help his hurting world? Is it already too late? Is it already too big? It can feel overwhelming at times, but John says, “If you have two coats, give one away.” It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

So friends, let us give our tithes and our offerings now, knowing that these gifts help build a world where all have a home—where all are welcomed, fed, loved, and known.

What should we do? We should give what we have. It’s all that easy and all that hard.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God who welcomes us home, who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it—we have two coats and we are giving one away. That’s what this offering is. It’s our second coat. It’s our hearts on our sleeves. It’s our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

OFFERTORY

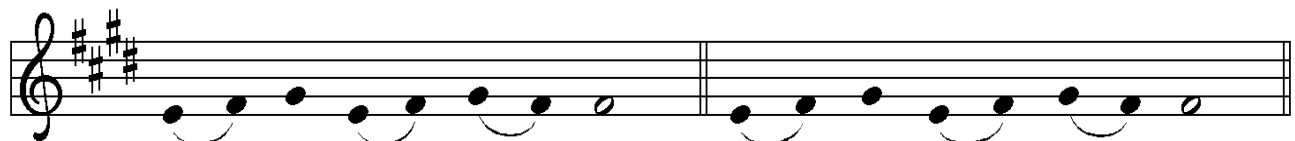
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885


“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.


DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

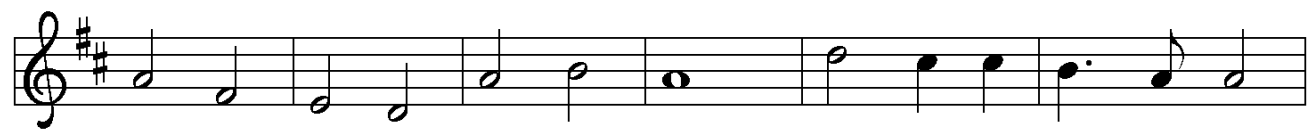


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

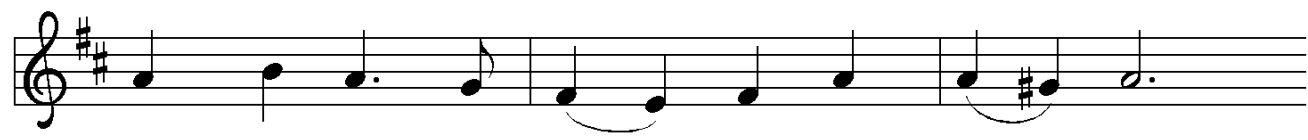
PREFACE

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



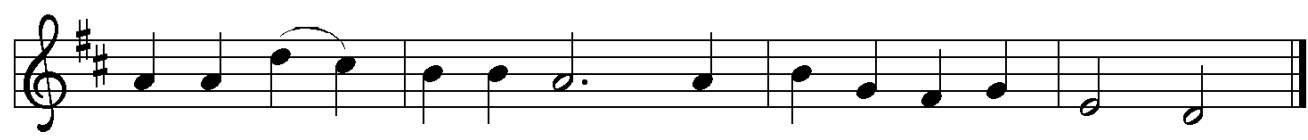
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

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.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. Please take your pre-package communion cup that you received at the entrance (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry "Puer Nobis"

ELW 249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Please feel free to be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from *the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes* BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

*Please remain at your seat until the conclusion of the postlude
and the cross has returned to the chancel.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

*Please continue to leave your bulletin, communion cup
and attendance sheet at your seat.
We will collect everything following the service.*

There is no coffee hour at this time.



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer is Richard Lee. Usher is Gail Camilleri. Altar guild is Gail Camilleri. Reader is Richard Lee. Worship Assistant is Eliana Perez.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Jen Yap. Reader is Ron Pellnat. Ushers are Ron Leiser, Kristen Best, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Kaci Kaltrider, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Helen and Marty Wright. Worship Assistants are Justin Rojek, Sofia Atlas, Madalyn Brown, Henry Peterson and Max Peterson.

The flowers on the altar are given:
In Loving Memory of Carolyn Ferraro and Rosemary Kryszczuk from the Kryszczuk Family; and
In gratitude for the blessings of my children; Grace, Jon, Emma and Aidan by Kathy Crissey; and
In Loving Memory of John Camilleri by Gail Camilleri

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Angelo Bavaro, Mer'Liah Gilchrist, Henry Flynn and Anthony Lizauckas.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.
Please call the church office should you need anything.
As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion (CH)
9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir (MR)
10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion/Communion Celebration (MC)
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School (SS)
12:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class (FR)
7:00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols (MC)

MONDAY, December 13, 2021

9:30 a.m.	Monday Morning Bible Study (FR)
6:00 p.m.	Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)
7:00 p.m.	Monday Evening Bible Study (FR)

TUESDAY, December 14, 2021

12:30 p.m.	Women at the Well (FR)
7:00 p.m.	Executive Meeting (via Zoom)

THURSDAY, December 16, 2021

10:00 a.m.	Watercolor Class (RH)
6:00 p.m.	Chapel Choir (CH)
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir (MC)
7:00 p.m.	Story Time
7:00 p.m.	AA/AL-ANON (RH)

SATURDAY, December 18, 2021

11:00 a.m.	Christmas Rehearsal (MC)
1:00 p.m.	LYO Christmas Party

SUNDAY, December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion w/chapel choir (CH)
9:30 a.m.	Youth Choir (MR)
9:30 a.m.	Budget Presentation (RH)
10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion (MC)
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School (SS)
12:00 p.m.	Food Basket Assembly (RH)

CH = Mansperger Chapel
FR = Fellowship Room
MR = Music Room
SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
FI = Fireside Room/Library
PS = Pastor's Study
SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
MC = Main Church
RH = Redeemer Hall
YR = Youth Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Angelo Bavaro, Mer'Liah Gilchrist, Henry Flynn and Anthony Lizauckas who are participating in our "Welcome to the Table" Communion Celebration today at the 10:30 service.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet today in the Fellowship Room following the 10:30 service.

BUDGET PRESENTATION AND EXPLANATION will be held next Sunday, December 19 at 9:30 am in Redeemer Hall. This session will detail the income and expenditures proposed for the upcoming year, along with a visual representation via graphs.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE is grateful for all who have sent in their commitments for the coming year. If you have not returned your pledge card, we would appreciate it if you could do so by the end of December. Know that we appreciate and are thankful for every gift that will allow us to continue our mission of being God's hands, ears and eyes in the Western New York region and around the world.

ANGEL TREE: Annually the members of HT generously provide gifts and holiday cheer to students from our local school PS 17 via the Angel Tree. Gifts will need to be wrapped, or bagged, and securely tagged with the students name and room number. Please be sure to drop off your gifts at Holy Trinity by December 19th.

HOLIDAY BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets. Cash donations to help provide gift certificates can be sent to the church office and designated "holiday baskets". Thank you for your donations.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS: Please pick up your copy of the November Holy Conversation summary located under the Kahler portrait next to the church office, on the upper table at the Main Street entrance or on the music stand on the Chapel side. Please feel free to contact the church office to have the document sent to you via electronic or postal mail.

Mark your calendar for the next Holy Conversation related to the perceived strengths and gifts of the new pastor on January 11 from 10-11:30am in the Fellowship Room and 7-8:30pm via Zoom

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at the end of each worship service. Agenda items include: approval of the budget and candidates for council.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Given the newly announced phased approach to limit the risk of transmission and infection in Erie County, the leadership of Holy Trinity is re-evaluating our current COVID protocols. This will continue to be an ongoing process. While the new mask mandate will not affect Sunday morning worship, it will affect how groups, committees, etc. meet and use the space at Holy Trinity. As with the mask mandate, all individuals, groups, committees entering the church will be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth; who are age 2 or older and medically able to tolerate a mask. The council will continue to evaluate our protocols as new information is shared from the Erie County Department of Health. Please contact the church office for more information.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed in the chancel for Christmas. Flowers are \$12 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found at the entrance ways, in the newsletter or in the weekly email.

ALTAR FLOWERS Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following date has two vases available- January 30. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for this or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at msmarylschmidt@gmail.com or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

2021 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chapel Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service
***10:00 p.m. Preservice music**
10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service of Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas service in the Chapel

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Chapel
10:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Main Church

***Note time change**

Lessons and Carols Flyer

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Barb Wozniak, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, *Organist*
Justin Pomietlarz, *Choirmaster*
kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org
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*

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, *Pastor*
pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org
The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll, *Intentional Interim Pastor*
drcarroll@holytrinitybuffalo.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 886-2400 phone/(716) 884-7505 fax
e-mail: info@holytrinitybuffalo.org
www.holytrinitybuffalo.org

Friend us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo
www.facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic



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