



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**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.*

*Visitors interested in membership may talk with a Council representative at the Council desk, contact the Church office or indicate on the yellow Welcome sheet.*

*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*

## THE PRELUDE

*Ring of the Tower Bells*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE OPENING HYMN

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* “Regent Square”

ELW 275

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

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.

**All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our  
world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of  
darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior 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 62:6-12**

The first reading for Christmas Day is recorded in Isaiah, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,  
take no rest, <sup>7</sup>and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have labored;

<sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the LORD,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

“See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup>They shall be called, “The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD“;  
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

The second reading for today is recorded in Titus, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

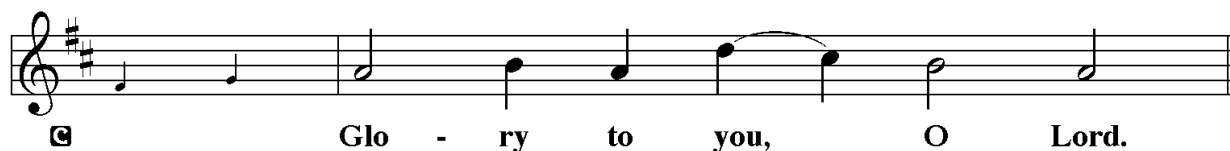
*Please stand for the Gospel, if able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

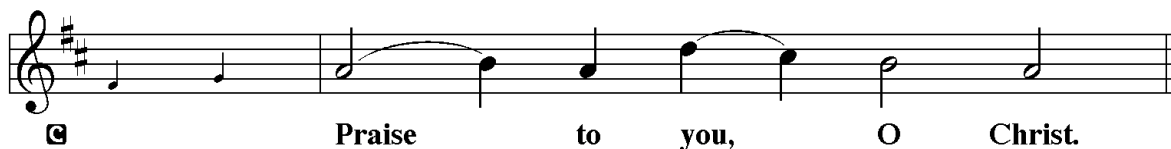
<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Jeff Wilson

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Love Has Come* “Un Flambeau”

ELW 292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF PASTOR AND PEOPLE**

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Christ is born and your Spirit is poured out upon us. Renew your church through the gift of baptism. Unite your faithful people across both distance and denomination. Teach us to live by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal your presence over the heights of the mountains, through the cloud and lightning, and beyond the trembling of the earth. Still the storms that threaten the lands and send relief to all places and peoples experiencing natural disasters, extreme temperatures, or famine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let all the ends of the earth know the promise of your reconciliation and renewal. Make beautiful the work of peacemakers, community organizers, and advocates who work to ensure that all people flourish in safety and dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, be our comfort and our redemption. Seek out all who feel forsaken or forlorn, especially those who are marginalized because of their race, sexuality, gender expression, or immigration status. Heal all who struggle in any way and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Following the example of Mary and Joseph, let all our families, whatever their shape or size, reflect your holy and life-giving love. Bless adoptive families, foster families, and guardians. Hold in mercy all who are childless, by choice or by life circumstance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you have guarded the lives of the saints, so shield us from evil and danger. Teach us by their example to serve you with joy and honesty of heart, that we live as heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**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**

Let us pray together.

**God of abundance,**

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**

**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,**

**and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world**

**the abundance of your grace upon grace,**

**poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

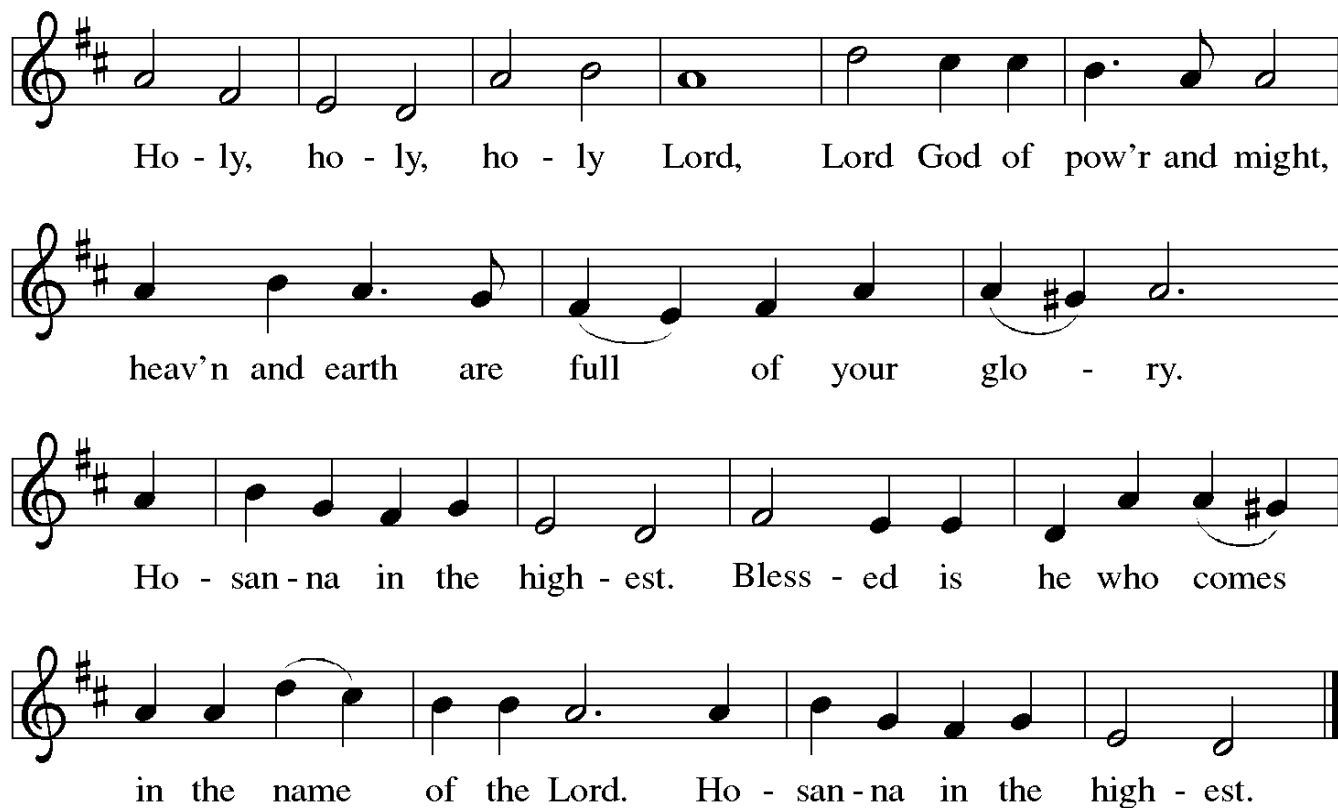
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 gave himself for us, 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. Be known among us anew. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### *Invitation to Communion*

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the presiding minister. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or “intinct” the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Portable communion cups are also available for those who are not comfortable sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion in-person. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

*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.

**God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

God bless you and keep you,

✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* “Go Tell It”

ELW 290

### *Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## THE DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



Many thanks to today's reader, Justin Pomietlarz

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Loving Memory of Dr. Robert Schopp by the Schopp Family; and

In Loving Memory of Jack and Marion Grabenstatter from their  
grandchildren: Eric, Jonathan and Sarah; and

In Celebration of our granddaughter Natalie's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on  
Christmas Day from Donna and Ron Leiser.

On behalf of the Pastors  
and The Church Council ~

*A blessed Christmas to all!*



## *A Few Announcements*

THE INSTALLATION WORSHIP SERVICE for Pastor Jeff Wilson will be held at Holy Trinity on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 7pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

TRANSITION CONTINUES, AND IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU THINK! — Our transition season at Holy Trinity was not complete when Pastor Jeff arrived in November. When God said to Israel, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isa. 43:19), there was more on the horizon than a new administration. The world had changed, and so must Israel’s way of life. They would rebuild upon ancient foundations, but the building would have a new look for a new day.

The same is true for us at Holy Trinity. The foundation upon which we have built is solid and is to be celebrated. The details of the life we build on that foundation will change as we respond in new ways to a new and different world. And as our transition progresses toward the “new thing” God is doing, it’s important that all of you have a hand and equal share in shaping the transition.

In January we will begin a series of transition events designed to celebrate our foundation and shape our future ministries as Pastor Rich leads us in “Celebrating the Holy Trinity Story.” We will recall the rich history of the congregation from as far back as our memory goes to this day. What have been our high points? Our lows? Our stabilizing in-betweens? What have been our oases of shelter and renewal? What have been our desert or wilderness experiences? Where have we experienced God sustaining us with manna and leading us to new places?

Make plans now to join Pastor Jeff and the Church Council in Redeemer Hall on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, as Pastor Rich leads us in “Celebrating the Holy Trinity Story.” Please call the church office by Wednesday, January 10 to make your reservation.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 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.

**Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion**

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church

*We would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas!*

## ***HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP***

### **Congregational Council**

Jennifer Yap, *President*  
Kathy Crissey, *Vice-President*  
Fred Howard, *Treasurer*  
Linda Horton, *Secretary*

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown, Gail Camilleri,  
Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Pat Lonergan,  
Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

### **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

Kristen Pomietlarz, *Organist* ~ Justin Pomietlarz, *Choirmaster*  
[kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

Linda Lipczynski, *Office Manager*  
Carol Littlefield, *Parish Accountant*

John Busch, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*  
Andrew Kraus, *Incoming Director of Buildings and Grounds*  
Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

Erin Alexander, *Youth Choir Director*  
[youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, *Lead Pastor*  
[pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org)  
The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor*  
[richneal@together.net](mailto:richneal@together.net)

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