



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
Celebrating our 145th 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.

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

INTRODUCTION

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

O Antiphon Preludes (2010)

Nico Muhly
(b. 1981)

Nicole Brendel, *cantor*

1. *O Sapientia*
5. *O Oriens*
7. *O Emmanuel*

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

For CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:

Our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)
is located in the Sacristy on the wall near the window.
Look for the First Aid and AED sign near the top of the door to the Sacristy.
Exit the Sanctuary next to the Angel Lectern.
The Sacristy will be the first room on the left.
Coming from other areas of our building,
go up the stairs toward the Main Church and turn left.

(10:30)

ANTIPHON

O Emmanuel

from the *Great "O" Antiphons*

Peter Hallock
(1924- 2014)

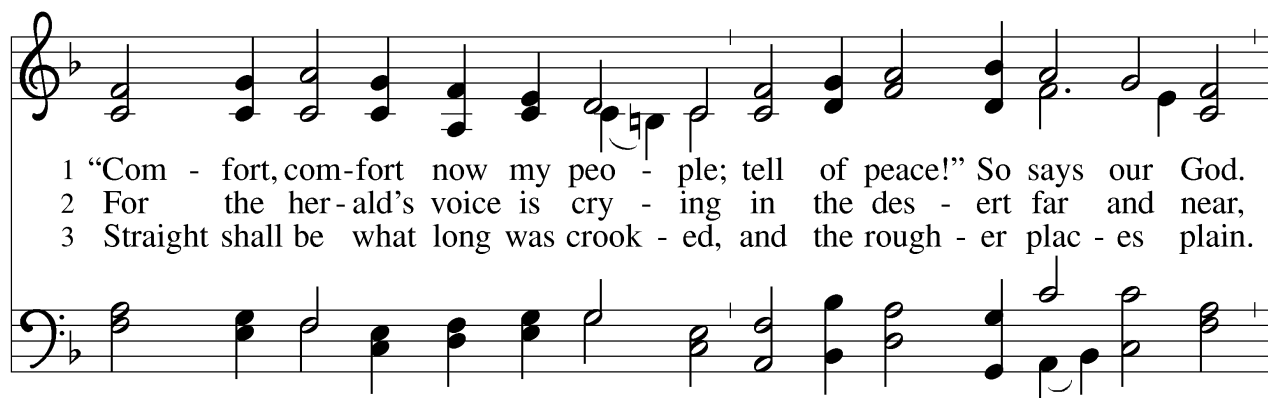
O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the desire of the nations and their salvation:
come and save us, O Lord our God.

Please stand as you are able.

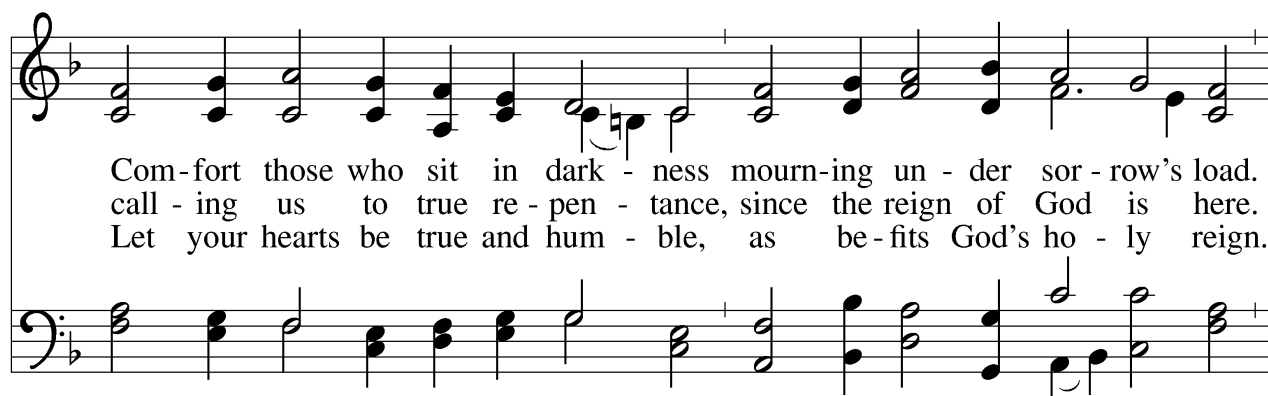
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People "Freu Dich Sehr"

ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

(10:30)

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

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

(10:30)

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 “Veni Emmanuel” ELW 257, vs. 1, 2

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 40th Chapter.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE SOLO

Comfort Ye, Ev'ry Valley from Messiah

G.F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Riley Nahlik, *tenor*

Recit.: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Aria: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

(10:30)

THE ANTHEM

On Jordan's Bank

Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)

Text: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. John Chandler (1808-1876)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
come them and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry christian breast, and furnished for so great a guest!
Yes, let us each our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade, and wither like a flow'r decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore, and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine, and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free, whom,
with the Father, we adore, and Spirit blest, for evermore.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

The second reading for today is recorded in 2nd Peter, the 3rd Chapter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

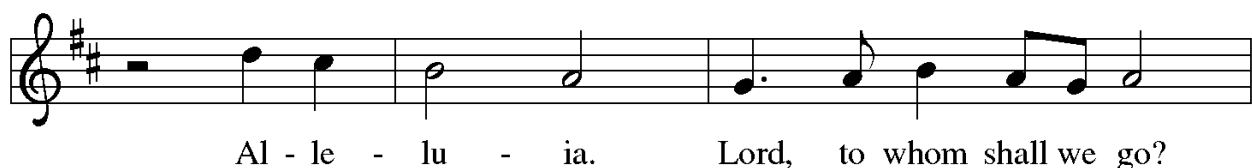
¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

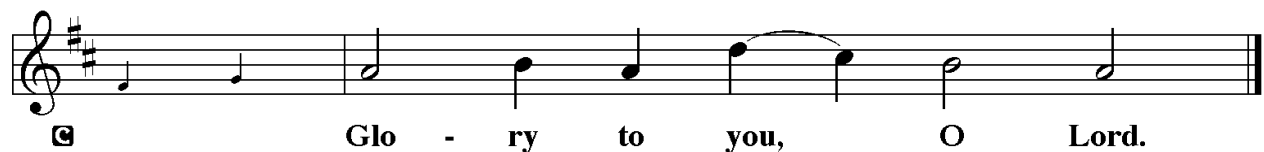
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark



¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

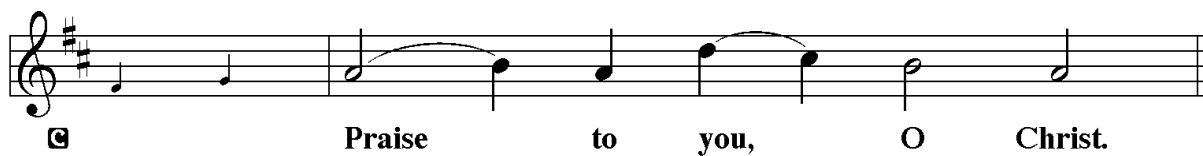
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

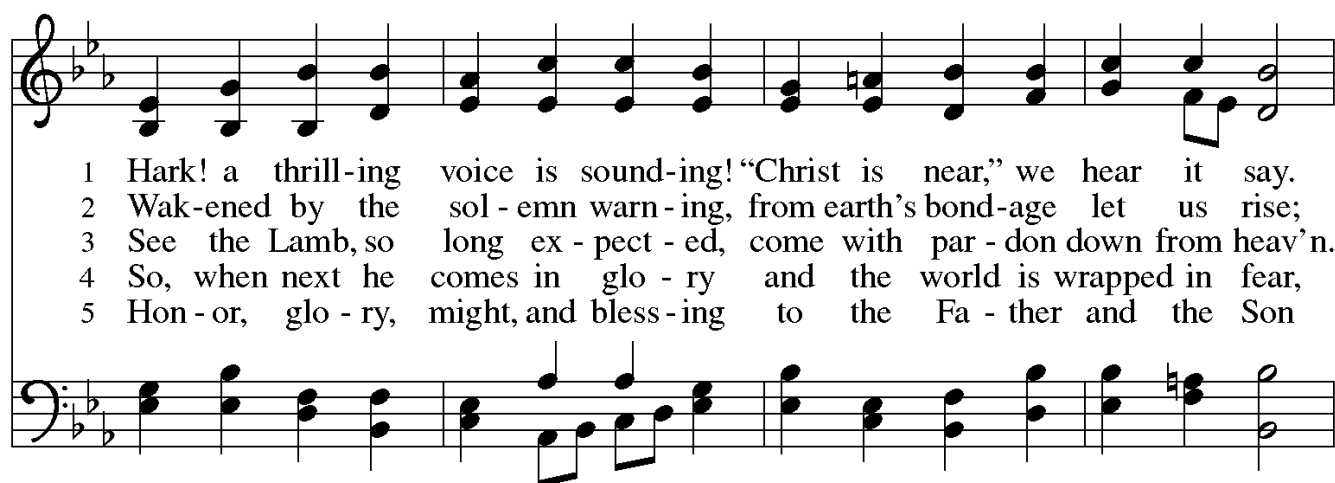
The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

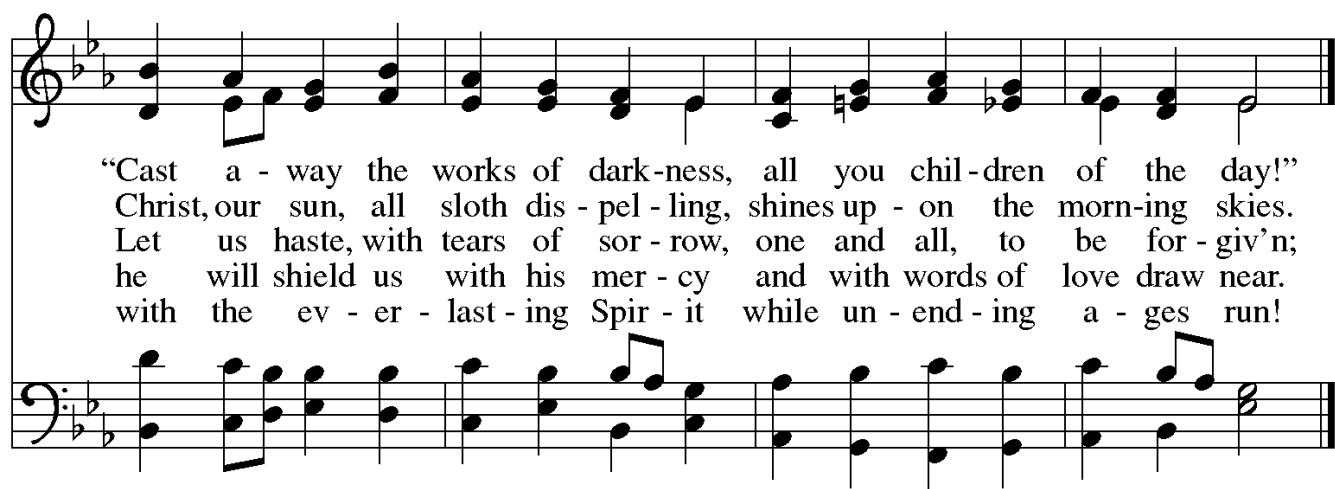
SERMON HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! “Merton”

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav’n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



“Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!”
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv’n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

NICENE 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

For everything under the sun, you have ordained a season, O God, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to craft a vessel for the life you give us, and a time to grow into the life you promise. Give us grace to await patiently the time that is yours, and give us agility of spirit to embrace faithfully the new life that comes in Christ our Lord. With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with ministries of promise and forgiveness. Teach us to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, and all who feel lonely or forgotten. Make your steadfast presence known when all else feels uncertain and remember those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents and watch over all of us, including your children, and especially Sofia and Simon. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You bestow gifts upon all who are called to ministry in the church, and you affirm their service as it enriches the lives of all. Receive our thanks for your servant John Busch and the 30 years of faithful service, friendship, and love he has brought to us. Help us join our hearts and voices to your affirmation, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With you a thousand years are like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

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.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

(8:30)

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

I Want to Be Ready

African-American Spiritual

arr. Harry T. Burleigh
(1866-1949)

Riley Nahlik, *tenor*

I want to be ready, I want to be ready,
I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

John said the city was jus' four square, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.
An' he declar'd he'd meet me there, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

When Peter was preachin' at Pentecost, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.
He was endow'd with the Holy Ghost, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

(10:30)

OFFERING ANTHEM

Lo, In the Time Appointed

Healey Willan

Text: Sarum Antiphon

(1880–1968)

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom: and upon the throne of David shall he reign for ever. Alleluia.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God our provider, by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.**

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

**Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

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 also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

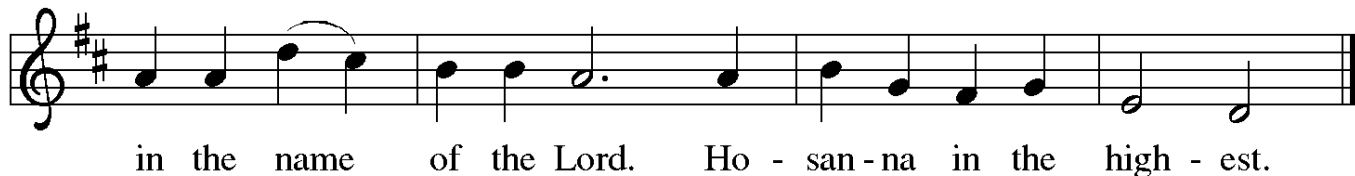
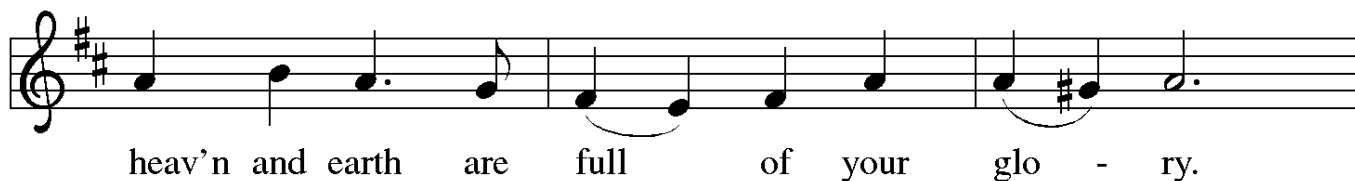
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalt those of low degree.
You fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty.
Your own Son came among us as a servant
to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.
He humbled himself in obedience to your will
and freely accepted death on a cross.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us . . .
When the supper was over he took the cup . . .

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by Christ's blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

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.

THE 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 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.

(10:30)

COMMUNION SOLO

Comfort Ye, Ev'ry Valley from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Riley Nahlik, *tenor*

Please see text printed on page 8 of the worship bulletin.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol
Arr. John Jacob Niles
(1892–1980)

Colleen Flynn, *soprano*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I... I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and farmers and
shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, And the
promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, Or all
of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause he was the
King.

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God,

**in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.**

**Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a broken and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes, in prisons, or in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we are one in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We invite congregation members to share this holy meal with those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to join us in person. Communion elements and a simple printed liturgy are available on the altar for your use. If you take a bulletin from this morning's worship service, you will be able to easily share today's scripture and prayers with the meal.

BENEDICTION

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Rejoice! Rejoice Believers! “Haf Trones Lampa Fardig”

ELW 244

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Antiphon Preludes (2010)

Nico Muhly
(b. 1981)

4. *O Clavis David*

*You are encouraged to take the bulletin
home with you for future reference.
Otherwise, please place them in the recycle bins
at the entrance ways.*

*We invite you to join us downstairs in Redeemer Hall
for refreshments and fellowship following the 10:30 Service
as we celebrate John Busch's retirement
at the end of the year.*

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR)
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (FR)
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)
- 11:30 a.m. Special Coffee Hour (RH)

MONDAY, December 11, 2023

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR)
- 6:00 p.m. Gambler's Anonymous (RH)

TUESDAY, December 12, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. Christmas Program (CH)
- 6:30 p.m. Vespers Candlelight Service (CH)

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CR)
- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Musicales (MC)
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Tree set-up (MC)

THURSDAY, December 14, 2023

- 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. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

FRIDAY, December 15, 2023

- 7:00 p.m. 'Winterlude' Concert (MC)

SATURDAY, December 16, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Food Basket Assembly (RH)

SUNDAY, December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion w/Chapel Choir(CH)
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR)
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (FR)
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour (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



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer and reader is Paul Kroll. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Maddie Brown.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Linda Horton. Reader is John Girdlestone. Ushers are Jim Dunnigan, Ryon Fleming, Prudence Hollands, Charmaine Kaltrider and Joe and Martha Kryszczuk. Acolytes are Tim Yap, Erys Yap, Morgan Leiser, Rowan Leiser and Henry Flynn.

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

Collection counters are Linda Horton, Tom Johnson and Sue Spindler.

Council Secretary, Linda Horton, will be at the Main Street entrance to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Sofia Atlas and Simon Ames.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAROLS WHICH HAVE ENDURED: Join us for a special Christmas event on Tuesday, December 12, when Doug Alderdice will present a selection of well-known and beloved Christmas carols that have survived to the modern age despite having some “baggage.” We will begin at noon with a simple luncheon. Please call the church office by December 8 to make your reservation.

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS – Join us for our next Candlelight Vespers worship and fellowship program this Tuesday, December 12. We will start at 6:30pm with a brief (~20 minute) candlelight vespers service in the Chapel, followed with the Christmas event presented by Doug Alderdice. Please contact Pastor Rich for more information or to volunteer to lead an activity in upcoming months.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Bringing back an annual tradition, it is time for our Holy Trinity Congregational Christmas Card. In lieu of sending holiday cards to those friends you see here at church, please consider making a donation to our annual giving card by December 17. If able, please place your donation in the collection box located on the wall near the elevator entrance to the main church and sign your name to the card. Pastor Rich and Pastor Jeff will be choosing the charitable organization to which your contributions will be sent.

ANGEL/MITTEN TREE: We have a wonderful opportunity to spread Christmas cheer to the children of PS 17 this season! In the area just outside the Sanctuary, you’ll find the Holy Trinity Angel Tree. Here you’ll choose a child’s name along with a list of needs and gift ideas. Gifts will need to be wrapped or bagged and securely tagged with the student’s name and room number. Please be sure to drop off your gifts at Holy Trinity by December 17 and we’ll do the rest!

HOLIDAY BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets through December 15. 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.

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 is available- December 31. 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 on her cell 716-472-4194. Vases are currently \$50.00 each.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The chancel is so beautiful on Christmas Eve with the striking red of poinsettias. If you would like to purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of someone or simply “to the glory of God,” they may be purchased for \$12 each. Order forms can be found at the entrance ways, in the newsletter or in the weekly email.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will begin a new series, “The Messiah,” led by Pastor Rich. Using resources by world-renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, we will look at the four royal titles used in Isaiah 9:2-7 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace). How were those titles understood during Jesus' time, and how did Jesus fulfill or not fulfill them? How do Christians today understand Jesus as fulfilling those titles? Join us in the Fellowship Room at 9:30 Monday morning (and bring a friend).

BURRITO PROJECT: Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or participated in the Burrito Project event on Tuesday, December 5. Gail provided cookies. Uli, Guy, Jerry and Jen made the burritos. We left church with over 100 burritos, plus the cookies, juice, water, coffee and cocoa. We also had 6 bins full of clothing items like socks, scarves, mittens and shirts donated by various members of the congregation. Guy, Jerry and Jen distributed items to people near the downtown bus terminal. They were so appreciative of your generosity. Our next event at Holy Trinity will be Tuesday, February 6. New volunteers are always welcome for this very rewarding ministry!

FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL — “In Erie County, New York, the COVID-19 hospital admission level is medium. If you are at high risk of getting very sick, wear a high-quality mask or respirator when indoors in public. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Maintain ventilation improvements. Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask or respirator when indoors in public.”

MEMBERS OF THE HOLY TRINITY STAFF are grateful for the appreciation lunch with the Personnel Committee last week and for the kind cards and gifts. We are still more grateful for the privilege of serving in ministry with all of you, members of the congregation. We are truly blessed. Thank you, and "Merry Christmas" from all of us: Andrew, Carol, Chuck, Pastor Jeff, John, Justin, Kristen, Linda, and Pastor Rich.

Winterlude

Friday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 pm

celebrating the music of
Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga
Johann Sebastian Bach
& Randall Thompson

presented by the
Camerata Chamber Orchestra,
the Holy Trinity Lutheran Chancel Choir,
and the Amherst High School Concert Chorale

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1080 Main Street

Admission 20.00, free for ages 17 and under, reception to follow



**Council on
the Arts**

Camerata concerts are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts
with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature,
the generous support of the Cullen Foundation, and our loyal Angeli





2023 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Chapel)

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. Family Service

9:45 p.m. Preservice music

10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas service (Chapel)

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

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

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, *Lead Pastor*

pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, *Intentional Interim Pastor*

richneal@together.net

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