



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third 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

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

PRELUDE

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

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

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)

Nicole Brendel, *soprano*

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.

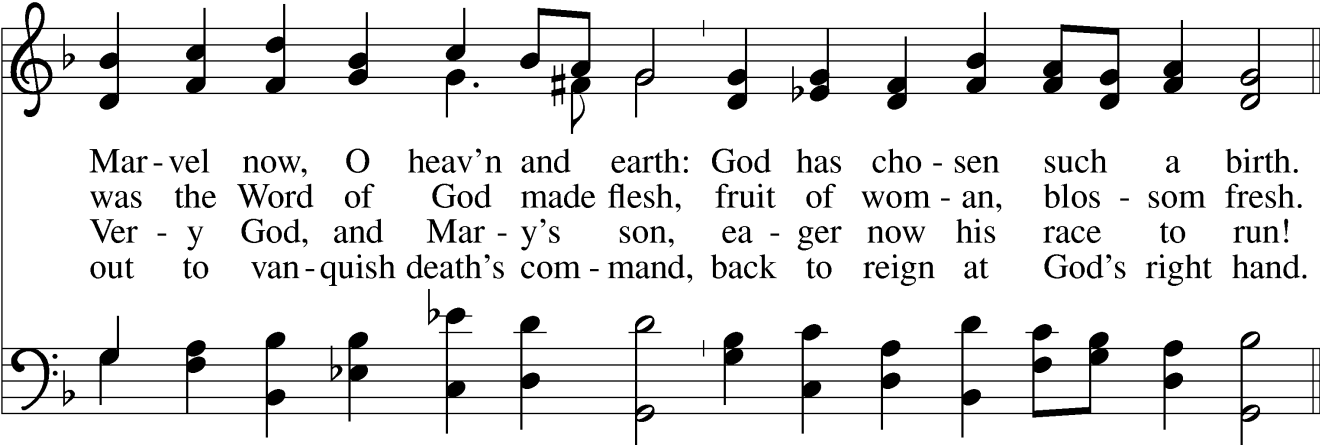
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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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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

Prayer before Lighting the Advent Wreath

While we light the Advent Wreath we sing together:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel “Veni 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.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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)

THE YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM

Come to Us, Emmanuel

Carol McClure

Come to us, Emmanuel,
Christ, whose **hope** we now await,
Whose birth the Prophets did foretell,
Come to us, we pray.

Come to us, Emmanuel,
Christ, whose **love** we now await,
Whose birth the Prophets did foretell,
Come to us, we pray.

Come to us, Emmanuel,
Christ, whose **joy** we now await,
Whose birth the Prophets did foretell,
Come to us, we pray.

Come to us, Emmanuel,
Christ, whose **peace** we now await,
Whose birth the Prophets did foretell,
Come to us, we pray.

Shine in us, Emmanuel,
Christ, whose **light we celebrate**,
Whose birth the Prophets did foretell,
Shine in us, we pray.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Blessing of Food Baskets and Angel Tree Gifts

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The first reading for the Third Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 61st Chapter.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE ANTHEM

Call to Advent

J. Jerome Williams

Text: *Veni Emanuel*, tr. John M. Neale; *Piccardy*, Liturgy of St. James

(b. 1938)

Erin Alexander, *conductor*

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.

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.

(10:30)

THE CANTATA

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 62 (1724) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

I. Chorale: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (chorus)

Now come, Savior of the heathens,
known as the Virgin's child,
over whom the whole world marvels,
that God had ordained such a birth for him.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The second reading for today is recorded in 1st Thessalonians, the 5th Chapter.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

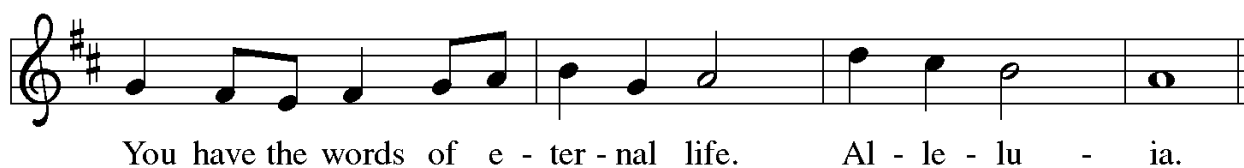
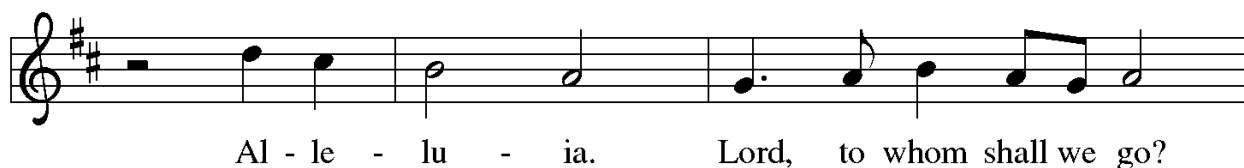
²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

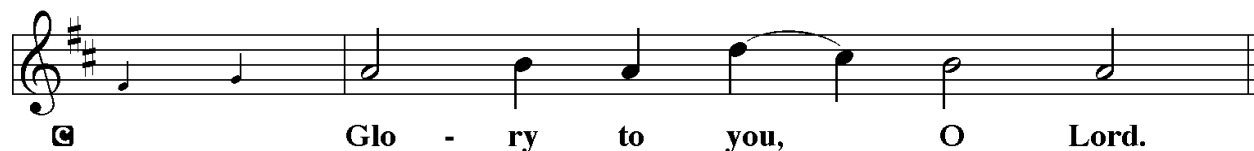
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John



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

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

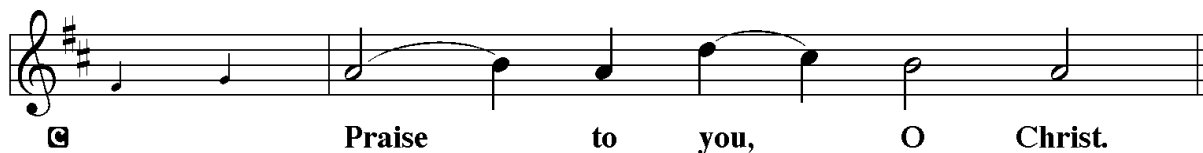
“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

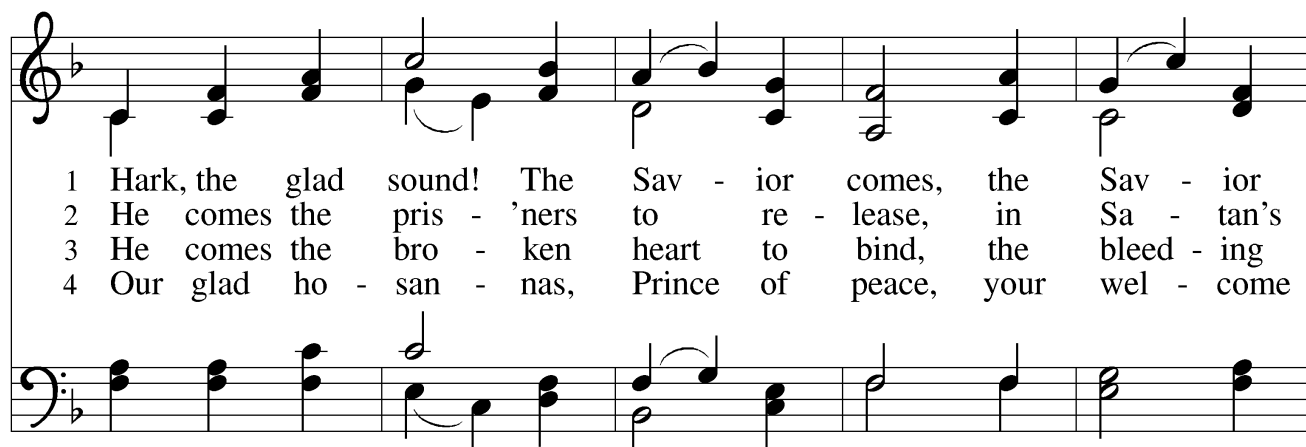
The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

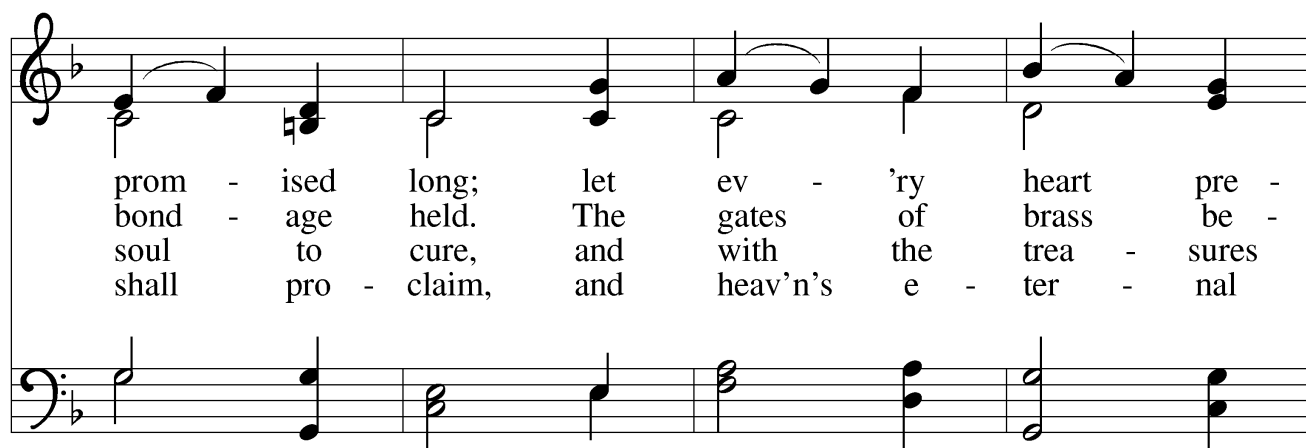
SERMON HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound! "Chesterfield"

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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

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.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates and remember those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts....

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society and watch over all of us, including your children, and especially Natalia and Angelo. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good.
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)

OFFERING ANTHEM

Glow from the *Walt Disney World - World of Color Winter Dreams* Eric Whitacre
Text: Edward Esch (b. 1970) (b. 1970)

Erin Alexander, *conductor*

Softly falls the winter snow, whispers to the sleeping world below:
“Wintertide awakes,” morning breaks and sets the earth aglow.

In gentle tones of warmest white, proclaim the glory of Aurora's light.
Sparrow sings in a clear clean voice, a sweet, silver carol for the season born.
Radiant wings as the skies rejoice, Arise and illuminate the morn.

Softly falls the winter snow, whispers to the sleeping world below:
“Glow, like the softly falling snow.”

(10:30)

CANTATA AT THE OFFERING

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 62 (1724) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

II. Aria: *Bewundert, o Menschen, dies große Geheimnis* (tenor solo)

Marvel, o mankind, at this great mystery:
the Supreme Ruler appears to the world.
Here the treasures of heaven are uncovered,
here a divine manna is presented to us,
O miracle! The purity will be entirely unblemished.

Tyler Huk, *tenor*

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.

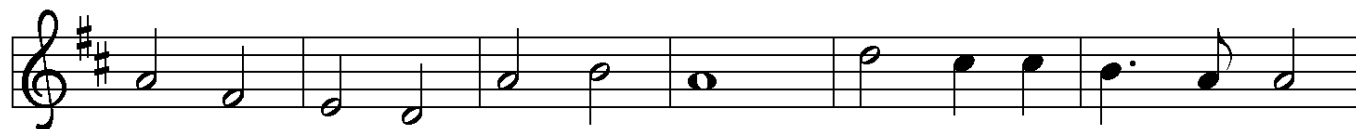
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

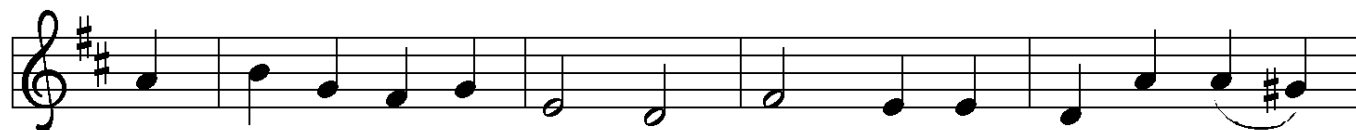
SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



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 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)

CANTATA AT COMMUNION

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 62 (1724) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

III. Recitative: *So geht aus Gottes Herrlichkeit und Thron* (bass solo)

Thus from God's glory and throne
goes forth his only begotten Son.
The hero out of Judah breaks forth
to run his course with joy
and to purchase us fallen ones.
O brilliant radiance, O wonderful light of blessing!

IV. Aria: *Streite, siege starker Held!* (bass solo)

Struggle, conquer, powerful Hero!
Be mighty for us in the flesh!
Be effective,
to strengthen the potential in us, the weak!

Timothy Flynn, *bass*

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.

(10:30)

Please be seated.

(10:30)

POST COMMUNION CANTATA

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 62 (1724) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

V. Recitative: *Wir ehren diese Herrlichkeit* (soprano/alto duet)

We honor this glory
and approach your manger now
and praise with joyful lips
what you have prepared for us;
the darkness does not confuse us
and we see your eternal light.

Nicole Brendel, *soprano*
Holly Holdaway, *mezzo-soprano*

VI. Chorale: *Lob sei Gott, dem Vater, ton* (chorus)

Praise be to God the Father,
Praise be to God, His only Son,
Praise be to God, the Holy Spirit,
Forever and in eternity!

(10:30)

Please stand as you are able.

THE BENEDICTION

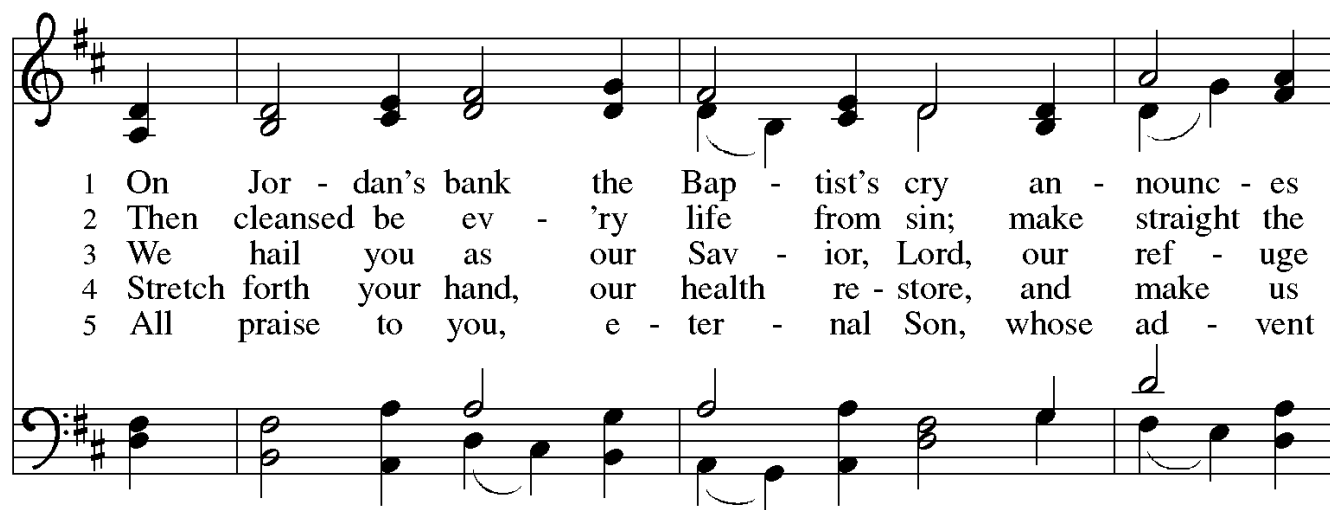
The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

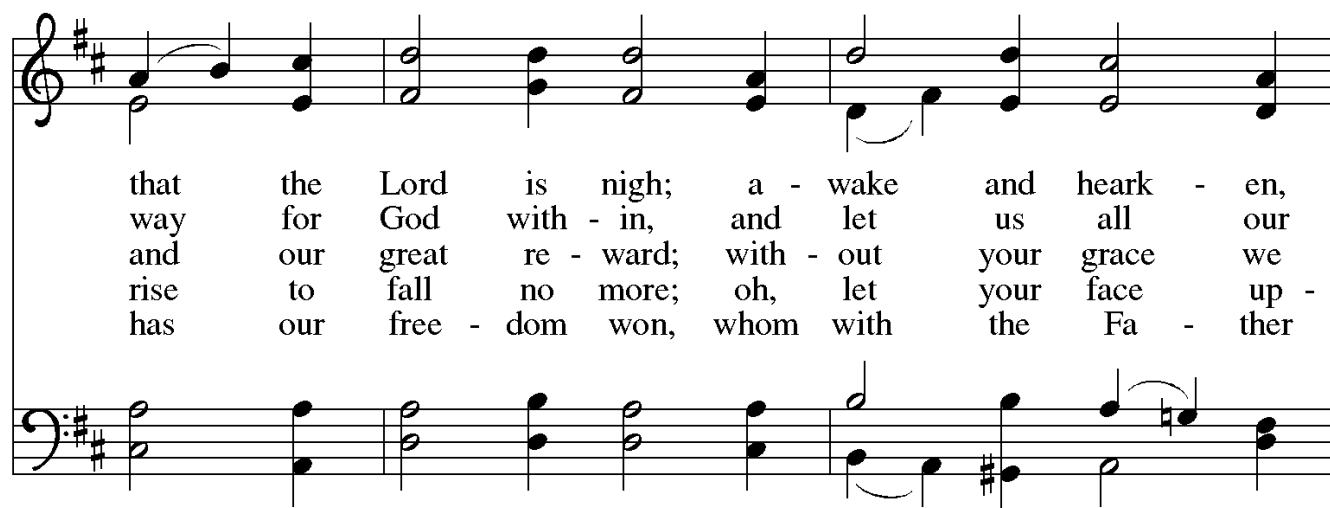
RECESSIONAL HYMN

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.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

*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.*

MUSIC NOTES

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) composed the church cantata *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Now come, Savior of the heathens) BWV 62, during his second year as Thomaskantor in Leipzig for the first Sunday in Advent. It was first performed on December 3, 1724. The chorale cantata is based on Martin Luther's Advent hymn *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, based on the Latin hymn "Veni redemptor gentium."

Church music was allowed in Leipzig only on the first Sunday of Advent, viewed at the time as a season of abstinence. Sir John Eliot Gardiner observes that BWV 62 "display[s] a sense of excitement at the onset of the Advent season. This can be traced back both to qualities inherent in the chorale tune itself, and to the central place Bach gives to Luther's words."

Craig Smith writes:

The opening chorus of BWV 62 is in an extremely lively 6/4 time. Running scales and arpeggios in the first violin are punctuated by two different figures: a fleeting motive passed around to both the oboes and strings and a more sturdy, almost militaristic, repeated note figure usually found in the strings. All three of these ideas are played on top of the first phrase of the chorale appearing in long notes, first in the bass and then at the cadence in the oboes.

As wonderful as this chorus is, we cannot help but feel that Bach was later to find the true grandeur of this tune in the three organ preludes. They are of such different character from each other that it is hard to remember that they are all based on the same melody.

The tenor aria of the cantata is an extremely long, though very lively affair. Its effect is of abundance. It has the uncanny effect of indicating both the grandeur of Christ's coming and the humility of his human roots.

After the brief recitative, the bass aria has a very different character. It is militaristic. It could even be accused of being jingoistic if the vocal phrases were not constantly overlapping and occasionally even contradicting the orchestra. The whole orchestra is in unison with no harmony whatsoever. Bach never wrote another aria quite like this one, but it is a character often found in Handel. The main effect is that of a virtuosic showpiece for the bass.

After such brazen and aggressive music, the little duet recitative for the soprano and alto with strings is shocking. In its brief time it brings us the only inward view of this moment in the liturgical year. The final chorale setting is sturdy and powerful.

Adapted from: Wikipedia and Craig Smith (1947-2007), Emmanuel Music, Boston, MA
<https://www.emmanuelmusic.org/bach-notes/bwv-62>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nun_komm,_der_Heiden_Heiland,_BWV_62

Guest Instrumentalists

Antoine Lefebvre, *violin*

Nadejda Nigrin, *violin*

Bob Donowick, *viola*

David Schmude, *cello*

Edmond Gnekow, *bass*

Paul Schlossman, *oboe*

Christine Ford, *oboe*

Daniel Kerdelewicz, *French horn*

We are also proud to feature the newly renovated Kuck-Kaufmann harpsichord, graciously donated by Jeanette Kuck (nee Kaufmann), and built by her husband Roy Kuck. Sincere gratitude to Mary Kaufmann and the Kaufmann Family for making the extensive rebuild of this beautiful instrument possible. May this instrument be a gift to the entire Holy Trinity Congregation for all to enjoy.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday of 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)

MONDAY, December 18, 2023

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

THURSDAY, December 21, 2023

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MC)
- 7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

FRIDAY, December 22, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Poinsettias delivered

SATURDAY, December 23, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Poinsettia Set-up (MC)
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Rehearsal (MC)

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Family Service (MC)
- 9:45 p.m. Pre-Service Music (MC)
- 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Service (MC)

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 Richard Lee. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Brandon Howard.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Matt Brown. Reader is Paul Bauchle. Ushers are Marty Bauer, Matt Brown, Carole Casterline, Roger Draper, Craig Johnson and Dave Pellnat. Acolytes are Maddie Brown, Avery Best, Adrianna Wareham, Tony Lizauckas and Max Hakansson.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Loving Memory of The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by Bishop Lee, Heather and Griffin Miller;

and

In Loving Memory of W. Dana Jones and Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones.

Collection counters are Neil Kattermann, Karen Kolb and Ron Pellnat.

Council Member, Matt Brown, 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 Natalia and Angelo Bavaro.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Please be sure to drop off your gifts for the students of PS 17 by today. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous generosity!

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.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY continues with the 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).

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.

BURRITO PROJECT: Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or participated in the Burrito Project event. 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. Items were distributed 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.”



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)**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
9:30 a.m. Worship 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*

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

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The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor*

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