



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 3, 2023
First 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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE

Seven Christmas Miniatures

Caroline Mallonée
(b. 1975)

I. ...at the time of the evening breeze

III. The Root of Jesse

IV. The Son of God

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.

Please stand as you are able.

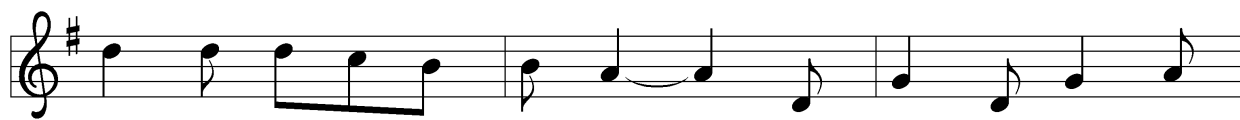
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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

ELW 242



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



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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(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.

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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

The first reading for the First Sunday of Advent is recorded in Isaiah, the 64th Chapter.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE SOLO

I Wonder as I Wander

Jake Heggie
(b. 1961)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

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.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior was born for to die.
Bye Lullay.

(10:30)

THE ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Text: Percy Deamer (1867-1936)

Harold Friedell
(1905–1958)

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met
together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God
the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping,
giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

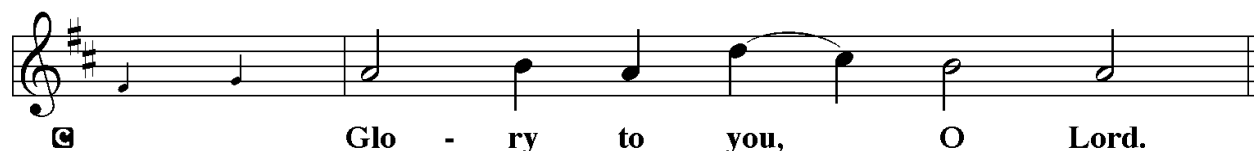
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark



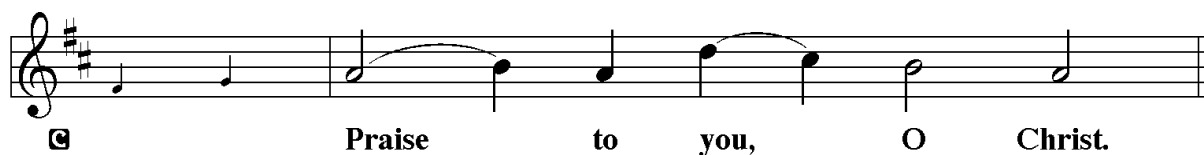
[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jeff Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light “Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



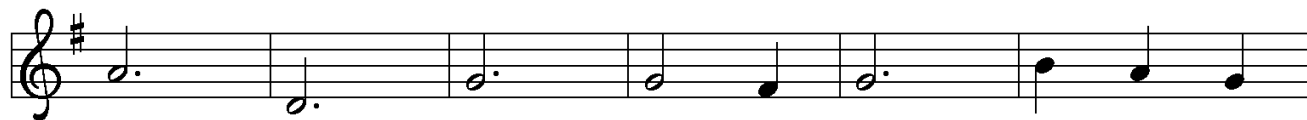
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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.

**Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially Elizabeth Vihnanek and Judy Reifsteck. Deliver all in any need and remember those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Watch over all of us, including your children, and especially Zachary and Amanda. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. 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

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

(b. 1945)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you, Deep peace of Christ to you.

(10:30)

OFFERING ANTHEM

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending 18th Century English Melody

Text: C. Wesley and J. Cennick

Arr. David Willcocks

The Congregation is invited to sing on the 4th verse.

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending, Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! God appears, on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion. Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshippers:
With that rapture, Gaze on those glorious scars!

**4. Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory: Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! (Three times) Alleluia! Come, Lord come!**

4. Yea, a - men! Let all a -

4 dore thee, High on thine e - ter - nal

8 throne; Sa - viour, take the power and

12 glo - ry: Claim the king - dom for thine

16 own: O come Quick - ly! O come

20 quick - ly! O come quick - ly! Al - le -

24 lu - ia! Come, Lord, come!

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
“Old Hundredth”

ELW 885

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.

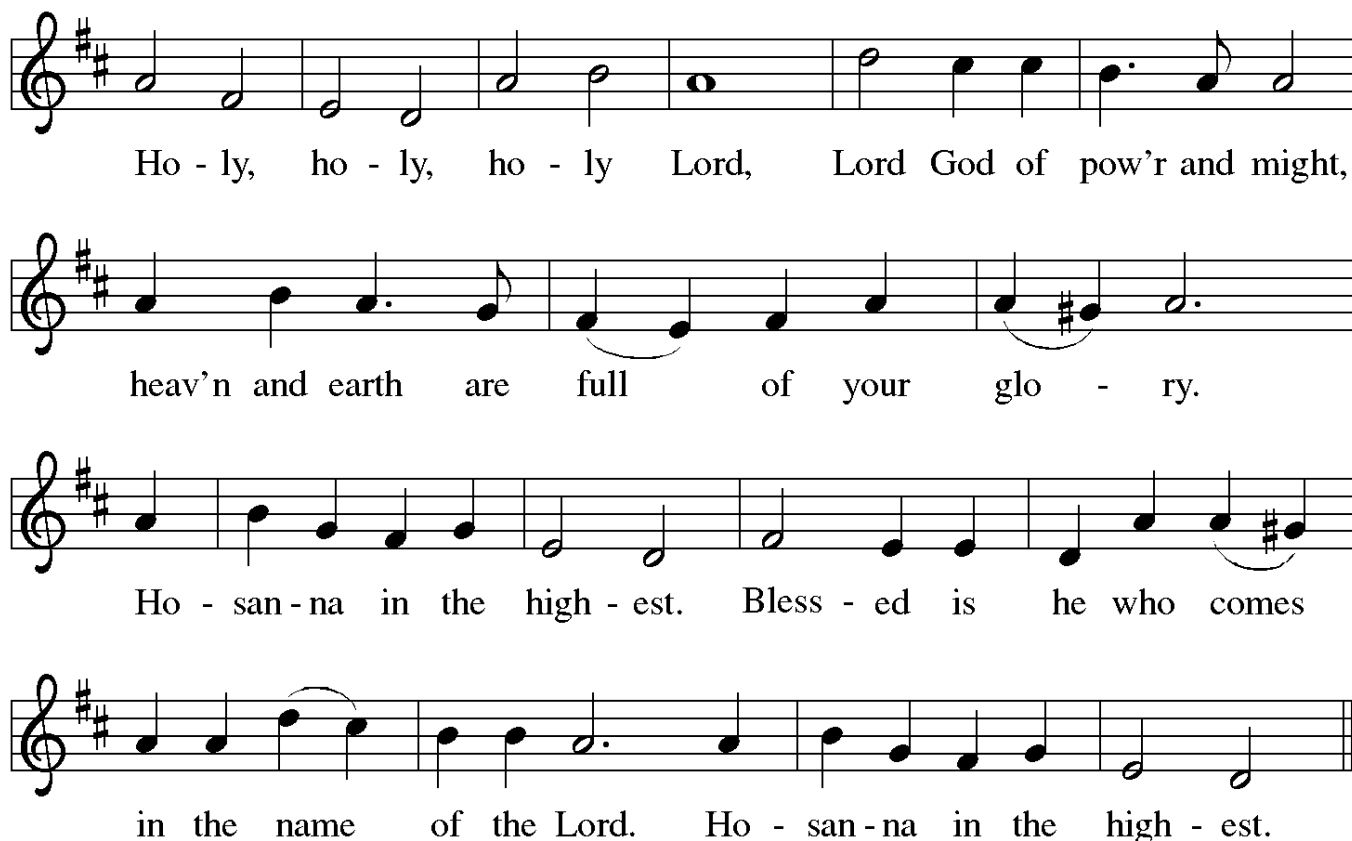
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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)

COMMUNION SOLO

I Wonder as I Wander

Jake Heggie
(b. 1961)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

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.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior was born for to die.
Bye Lullay.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Call to Advent

J. Jerome Williams

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

(b. 1938)

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.

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.

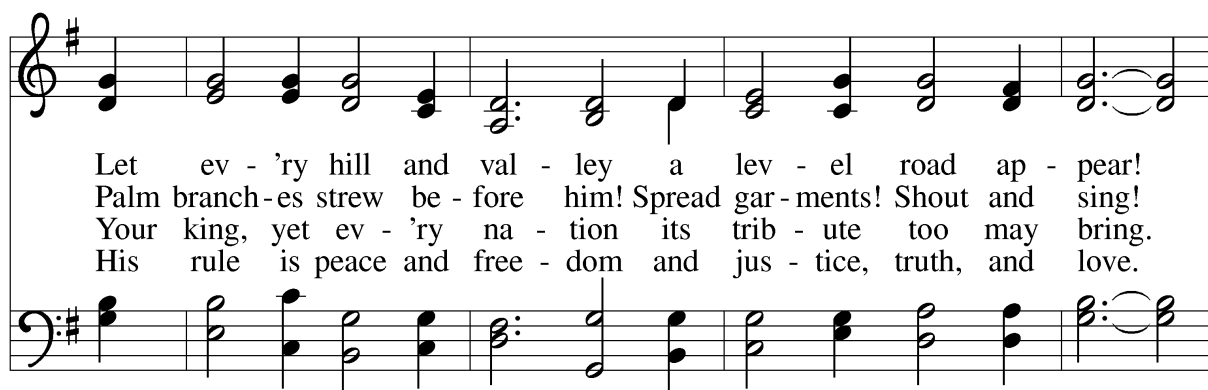
RECESSIONAL HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway “Bereden väg för Herran”

ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Seven Christmas Miniatures

Caroline Mallonëe

VI. News of Great Joy

(b. 1975)

*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.*



The Holy Trinity Chancel Choir performs J.S. Bach's
Advent Cantata 62 *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*
on the Camerata Chamber Orchestra's concert "Winterlude,"
Friday, December 15th at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Concert will also feature the Camerata
with the Amherst Central High School Concert Chorale
on works by Randall Thompson and Eric Whitacre.

The Camerata will then perform the Western New York premiere of
the stunning *Symphony No. 2 in D* by the 18 year-old *Spanish Mozart*,
Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga.

Admission \$20 or by subscription, free for ages 17 and under.

Reception to follow.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 3, 2023 – First 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. Coffee Hour (RH)
- 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (MC)

MONDAY, December 4, 2023

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

TUESDAY, December 5, 2023

- 5:30 p.m. Burrito Project (RH)

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. Staff Luncheon (FR)

THURSDAY, December 7, 2023

- 5:00 p.m. Choir Dinner (FR)
- 6:00 p.m. Chapel Choir (CH)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MC)
- 7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

FRIDAY, December 8, 2023

- 6:00 p.m. Congregational Christmas Dinner (RH)

SUNDAY, December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday in 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)

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 Mary Linda Schmidt. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Tim Yap.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Paul Bauchle. Reader is Daniel Culross. Ushers are Ron Leiser, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Marty Wright. Acolytes are Brandon Howard, Henry Peterson, Max Peterson and Griffin Miller.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Loving Memory of Sarah and James Bigham and Cornelia Ball by James Bigham.

Collection counters are Darlene Carden, Claire Carmer and Uli MacDonald.

Council Member, Paul Bauchle, 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 Zachary Agro and Amanda Allen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

JOHN BUSCH IS RETIRING!!! Please join us for a special coffee hour celebration on December 10th, after the 10:30 Service. John’s last day will be December 29th. Let’s wish him luck for his next chapter!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held Friday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in Redeemer Hall. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$40 for family. Reservation forms can be found on the tables in the entrance ways, in the newsletter or in the weekly email.

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).

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.

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!

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Holy Trinity has had a number of personnel changes recently, including extending the call to Pastor Jeff. With thanksgiving to our call committee and personnel committee, there are two other developments we are very happy to share.

Pastor Rich Neal has served us so well over the past year as our intentional interim pastor. He will continue to serve Holy Trinity in a role that encompasses continued preaching and teaching as well as being our “vision steward” through a strategic planning process we will begin in January. Read more about this below.

Andrew Kraus was recently hired as our Incoming Director of Buildings and Grounds. He is very qualified to take on this role and we look forward to his time with us even as John Busch prepares to retire after 30 years of service.

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Last week the Church Council, Pastor Jeff, and Pastor Rich announced that Pastor Rich will continue his ministry with the congregation past the end of this year as a part-time member of the pastoral staff. Much of what that means is that he will assist in discerning, expanding, and implementing Holy Trinity's emerging vision of ministry with its members and the surrounding community. He will also continue to provide support in areas such as adult Christian education, spiritual development, and discipleship; encourage and facilitate the building of bridges between the congregation's well-established tradition and innovative new ministries; and contribute to expanding effective ministries with older adults.

Continuing Holy Trinity's rich history of service to the larger community and to our sister congregations in the Niagara Frontier Conference, Pastor Rich will also work with Bishop Miller's office on behalf of Holy Trinity as a guide and resource for redevelopment in select smaller congregations in Erie County. Details of this ministry are still being worked out, and you'll hear more as this develops.

In making the announcement, Pastor Rich said, “One of the scriptures most meaningful to me is something God says in Isaiah: ‘For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun’ (Isa.43:19 NLT)! Something brand-new is appearing on our horizon. Even now it is emerging, and I'm excited to be part of it with all of you. I look forward with great expectation to what we might continue to do together.”



**Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church**  
*presents*

# **6th Annual** *Evening of Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Featuring*

**The University at Buffalo Choir  
and Chamber Singers**

**Claudia Brown, conductor**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Voice and Choral Music,  
University at Buffalo

**Roland E. Martin, organ**

Adjunct Instructor of Organ, University at Buffalo

**Michael Serio, piano**

Adjunct Instructor of Piano, University at Buffalo

**Kristen Pomietlarz, organ**

Organist, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**Readings by the Congregation of Holy Trinity**

The UB Choir and Chamber Singers perform under the direction of Claudia Brown, featuring choral masterpieces by Ernani Aguiar, Josef Rheinberger, Stephen Main, Elaine Hagenberg, Gustav Holst and a world-premiere by Buffalo's own Roland E. "Ron" Martin. Each musical offering is interspersed with Christmas hymns and readings chronicling the birth of Jesus. Kristen Pomietlarz features the music of local composer Caroline Mallonee.

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1080 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14209  
(716) 886-2400  
[www.holytrinitybuffalo.org](http://www.holytrinitybuffalo.org)**





## **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](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, *Intentional Interim Pastor*

[richneal@together.net](mailto:richneal@together.net)

### **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209**

**(716) 886-2400 phone/(716) 884-7505 fax**

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