



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Family Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2024

4:00pm

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church!

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.

Connection Card

The Connection Card insert gives you a direct connection to the leaders and ministry at Holy Trinity. Ask questions, share prayer requests, and find out more about the ministry here. Please return the top portion in the offering plate or to an usher.



Please see back page for AED Instructions

INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

VOLUNTARY

O Sapientia and *O Clavis David* from *O Antiphon Preludes* Nico Muhly
(b. 1981)

Ringing of the Bells

WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand, if able.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful “Adeste Fideles”

ELW 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light shines.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Thanks be to God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, the light of the world.

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

His name shall be called Immanuel, meaning, “God with us.” (Luke 2:7)

Do not be afraid, for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people!

Glory to the new born king!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The Old Testament reading for Christmas Eve is recorded in Isaiah, the 9th Chapter.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

What Child Is This? “Greensleeves”

ELW 296 (vs 1-2)

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Luke 2:1-7

This is the Nativity of Our Lord, according to Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem “St. Louis”

ELW 279 (vs 1-2)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing "Mendelssohn"

ELW 270 (vs. 1)

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

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

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

A FAMILY HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing “Mendelssohn”

ELW 270 (vs. 2,3)

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

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

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of heaven and earth,

**from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he gave himself for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Be known among us anew. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord. Communion is received by "intinction" - you will be offered the wafer (gluten-free is available) and you dip the wafer into either the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice).

Pre-filled communion cups are also available for those who prefer less physical contact. People who do not receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Please advise an usher if you would like the pastors to bring communion to you in your pew.

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,

send us forth to announce your peace,

comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

Children with glow sticks may now light them. As the acolytes and ushers pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.

THE READING OF LIGHT: John 1:1-9, 14; 8:12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Silent Night, Holy Night "Stille Nacht"

ELW 281

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

The God of love,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World “Antioch”

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Mendelssohn”

Sir David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

Many thanks to our Reader today:

Ron Pellnat

Crucifer

Henry Peterson

Torch Bearers

Max Peterson

Tony Lizauckas

Acknowledgements

The Organs of the church are gifts to the
Glory of God In Loving Memory of
Margaret L. Wendt.

The pianos in the church are gifts to the glory of God
given in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Kuhn
*(given by the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. York
and Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Kuhn);*
Virginia and Dorothy Mayer *(by the Mayer Estate);*
Mildred R. Wales *(by the Wales Family);*
Gerrie Schleifer *(by her family);*
and by S. Dwane Thomas, M.D.

The harpsichord in the church is a gift to the glory of God
given by the late Jeanette and Roy Kuck
and by Mary Kaufmann.

The timpani in the church are gifts given to the
glory of God in loving memory of Ruth H. Geiger.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The flowers on the altar are given:

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

Gifts for Christmas poinsettias decorating the church were received from:

In loving memory of:

My beloved, Mary Kaufmann

James and Elizabeth Manzella and Carl and Frances Kaufmann by
Mary Kaufmann

Our parents and grandparents by Pat and Dave Ulrich

Parents Carolyn and Henry Hughes, brothers Robert and Carlton, and
nephew David by Karen Saona

Parents Margarita and Raúl Saona and sister Alicia Violeta by Raúl
Saona

Grandparents Hugh and Anne Alderdice by Doug Alderdice

Grandparents Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice

Ed and June Erler by The Erler Family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Palmer by Prudence Palmer Hollands

Mr. and Mrs. John Hollands by Prudence Palmer Hollands

Jacqueline R. Holcombe by Sheri Scavone

John F. Schleifer, Jr. by Karen Schleifer

Mary Lou Clark by David and Sally Pellnat

Marie Ashley by David and Sally Pellnat

All of my ancestors by Claire Carmer

Randy Goulet by Dona McMaster and Matthew Goulet

In loving memory of:

Our parents and grandparents, Richard W. Bauchle, William and Emma Bauchle, Uncle Albert Bauchle, Robert Klas, Shirley Klas and brother, Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle

Bill Emms by Gary Volante

Francis and Suzanne Volante by Gary Volante

Our parents: John and Victoria Caffarelli and Layton and Viola Leiser by Ron and Donna Leiser

Theresa "Grammy" Pomietlarz by Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz

The Bonnell Family by Janet Bonnell

Randall F. and Marie Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones

Randall E. Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones

W. Dana and Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones

Susan and Paul, Jr. by Paul Biesinger

William and Mabel Johnson by Thomas Johnson, Sr.

Sandra Walker by Thomas Johnson, Sr.

Charles A. Miller by Merriejann Miller

Walter and Doris Stroman, Marion Trier by Louise Ricchiazzi

My beautiful husband Raul and grandson Thomas by Carol Griesman

Earl J. Kunz, Jr. by Heidemarie B. Kunz

Donald and Irene Rice by Charles and Anna Marie Rice

John and Anna Mae Jones by Charles and Anna Marie Rice

My brother Chuck Thomas by Gary Thomas

My parents Robert and Ruth Thomas by Gary Thomas

My grandmother Ruth Simmons by Gary Thomas

Dave Grabenstatter by his wife Nanc and son Eric

William, Eleanor, Carol and Nancy Wolf by The Patricola Family

Dakota Jacob Lee by Richard J. Lee

Ken James by Ruth James

John Camilleri, Jr. by Ruth James

In loving memory of:

John Camilleri, Jr, Josh Sweers, Daniel Shedd and Daniel Schlosser by
John Sr. and Gail Camilleri
Ken James by John Sr. and Gail Camilleri
Melissa, Elaine and William by The Thomasula Family
Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul Hoebel
Elaine Fuhlbruck by Paul Hoebel
Joan and Arthur Pellnat by Jim, Beth, Sara, Marissa and Madison
Parents, Clifford and June Hehr by David Hehr
Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Staffel and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin
Hehr by David Hehr
Darwin C. Staffel by nephew, David Hehr
Arlene Derkovitz by Sheryl Neal
All of our Loved Ones by Pastor Richard and Sheryl Neal
Ken and Edna Kemp by Daniel Culross and Holly Holdaway
Don and Dorothea Holdaway by Daniel Culross and Holly Holdaway

In honor of:

Helen and Martin Wright by Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best
The blessings of my children and grandchildren by Claire Carmer
Our grandchildren Ella Hope, Hannah Grace and Walker James by Paul
and Karen Bauchle
Our sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren by Ron and Donna
Leiser
Holy Trinity's Magnificent Choir family by Justin, Kristen and Lillian
Pomietlarz
Our wonderful pastors and staff by Jen Yap & Family
Our dedicated Council by Jen Yap & Family
Margaret R. Kunz and Sarah E. Kunz by Heidemarie B. Kunz
Caleb, Ted, Gabriel, Samuel and Ana Sophia Lee by Richard J. Lee
Steven, Ana and Andy by The Thomasula Family

To the Glory of God:

by Jim and Norine Dunnigan

In Thanksgiving to God for:

for the blessings of Alexander and Emily by Mary Kaufmann

for the love and lives of Dan and Betsy Barberree by Pastor Jeff Wilson

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Rev. Neil and Pam Kattermann, Joe and Martha Kryszczuk, Dave and Mary Linda Schmidt, Sue Spindler, Elizabeth Vihnanek



A Few Announcements

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY service will be held at 10:30 am in the Chapel.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Save the date! The next annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The backup date (e.g., in the event of a blizzard) will be Sunday, February 2, 2025. Please join us as we vote on our annual spending plan/budget, elect members of council, and discuss plans for 2025.

THE HT CARES TEAM is hosting a Life Transition Part 2 Workshop on March 29, 2025. This workshop will include information needed after death and dealing with emotional responses to a death. Plan ahead and get a jump on your new year's resolutions of planning and preparing. Join us for this important workshop led by community experts. Additional information will be coming in the January church paper.

Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church

We would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas!

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Jennifer Yap, *President*

Kathy Biesinger, *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

Linda Lipczynski, *Office Manager*

info@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Carol Littlefield, *Parish Accountant*

Andrew Kraus, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

Johnetta Kenner, *Security*

Kristen Pomietlarz, *Organist* | Justin Pomietlarz, *Choirmaster*

kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Erin Alexander, *Assistant Conductor, Youth Choir Director*

youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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

pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor for Parish and Spiritual Development*

pastor.rich@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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