



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

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

THE PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem
Still, Still, Still*

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Ringling of the Tower Bells

Please stand as you are able.

THE OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory “Regent Square”

ELW 275

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
**Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has
shined; (Is 9:2)**

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of
cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them
in the inn. (Lk 2:7)

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6)**

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. (Jn 3:16)
O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

May the Good News of great joy, light and life, grace and peace, be with you all.

And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly “W Zlobie Lezy”

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

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

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

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

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

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

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

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

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

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

The second reading for today is recorded in Titus, the 3rd Chapter.

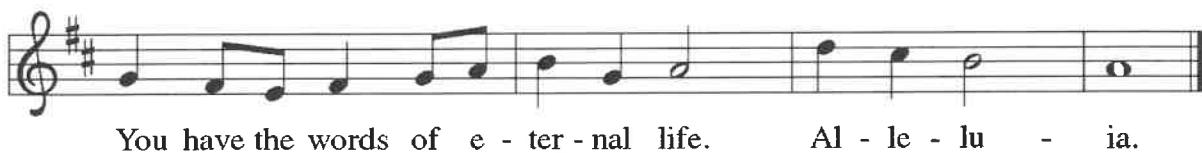
⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,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

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

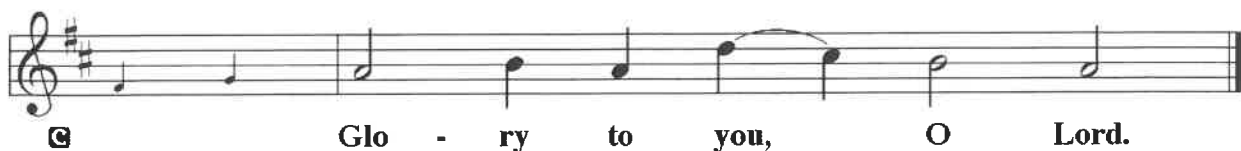
Please stand for the Gospel, if able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



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.”

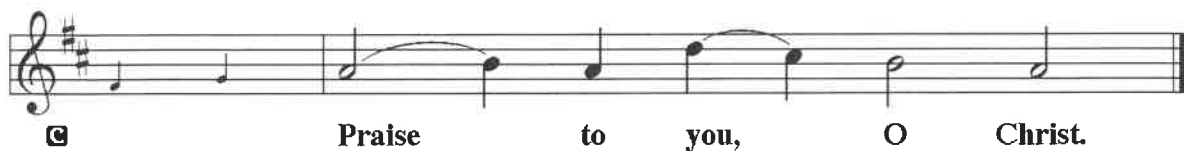
¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

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.



Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Has Come “Un Flambeau”

ELW 292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PASTOR AND PEOPLE

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

The church sings a new song for you, O God. By the water of rebirth, you claim us as your own. Renew all the baptized by your Spirit of grace and truth, and embolden us to announce your salvation to all. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The heavens and the earth are the work of your hands. By your Word, all things have come into being. Protect coastlands and waters. Awaken in us a heightened care for habitats threatened by rising sea levels. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Beautiful are the feet of your messengers who announce peace. Sustain the work of diplomats, relief agencies, and all who strive for peace in places of conflict and violence. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You guard the lives of your faithful ones and rescue them in times of distress. Heed the cries of all who are afraid. Comfort the grieving and despairing, the lonely and forgotten, and those who are ill and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Voices and instruments ring out with melodies of praise to you. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in making a joyful noise in worship. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We give you thanks for our ancestors in faith. As their lives bear witness to your light and love, inspire us to testify to the hope we share in you. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

*An Offering Plate can be found at the entrance –
please place envelopes in the plate as you exit.*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

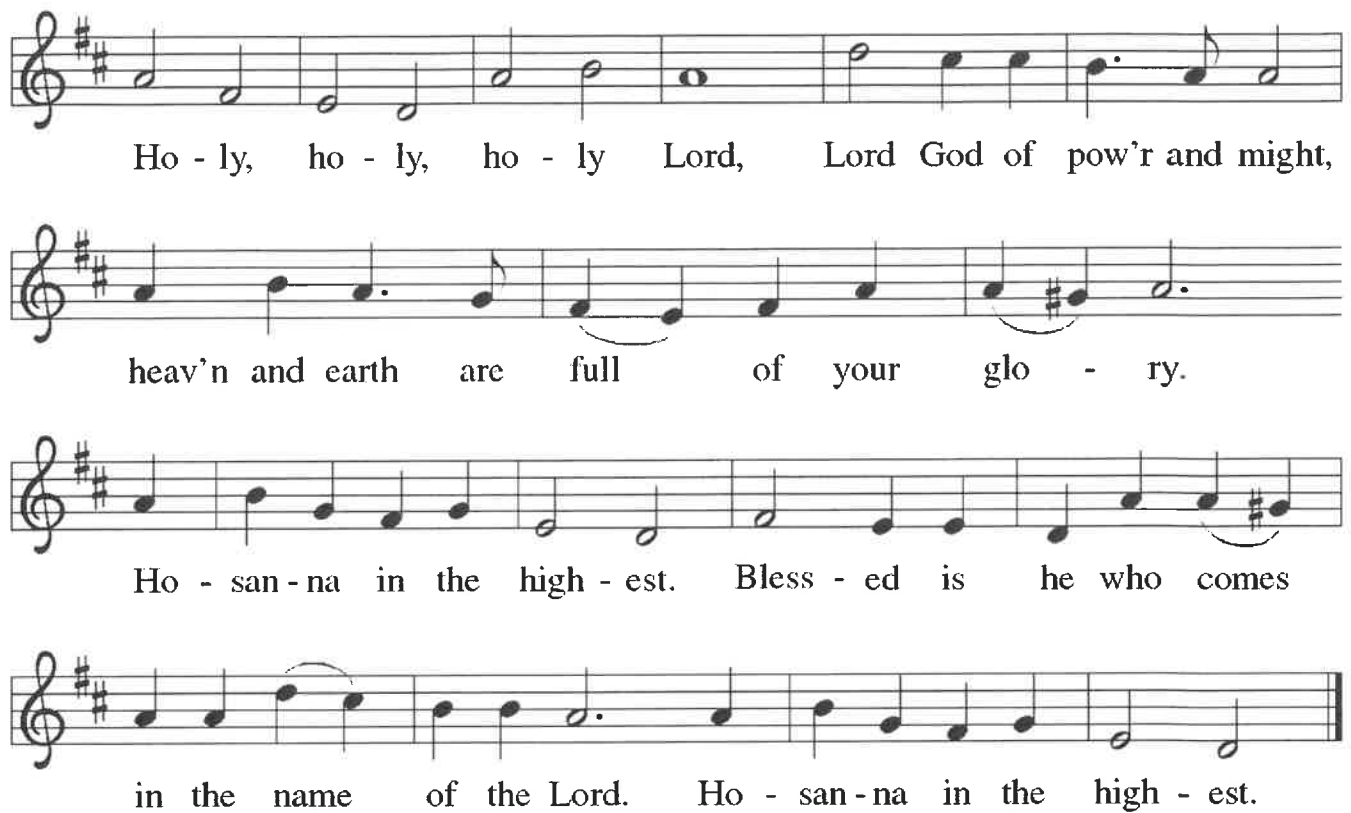
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

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

THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

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

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

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

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. 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 POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

THE 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.

THE CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain “Go Tell It”

ELW 290

Refrain

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

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

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on 'Quem pastores'
(He Whom Shepherds Came Praising)

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)



Many thanks to today's reader, Justin Pomietlarz

On behalf of the Pastors, Staff
and The Church Council ~

A blessed Christmas to all!



A Few Announcements

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

POINSETTIAS: The Christmas flowers are available in the Main Church. Please feel free to take one for yourself, a family member or a friend. They will be available following today's service.

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

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.

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