

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 29, 2024 First Sunday of Christmas Celebrating our 146th Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 am

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.

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

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

PRELUDE

Variations on 'Das alte Yahr' (The Old Year Has Passed Away) Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High "Gloria"

ELW 289

PASTORAL GREETING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(10:30)

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

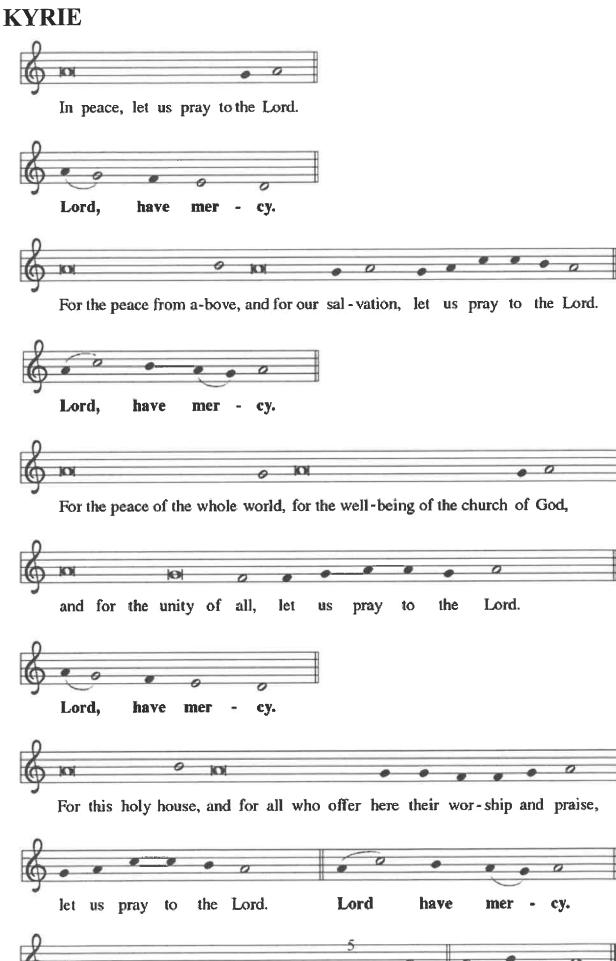
Amen.

Please be seated.

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.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

THE FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The first reading for the First Sunday of Christmas is recorded in 1st Samuel, the 2nd Chapter.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Gesù Bambino

Text: Frederick H. Martens (1874-1932)

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Dr. Heidi Schneider, soprano

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows, upon a winter night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced; And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

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

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

What Child Is This "Greensleeves"

ELW 296

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

During this season when we are filled with good news of great joy, we often live as if that news is settled and our current state is settled, also. Help us recall the power of living with our questions. Remind us again that growth in faith is less about finding answers to our questions and more like falling in love with you for whom we yearn yet too rarely glimpse. And turn our questions and our yearning into action as you help us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our continuing growth in faith, and watch over our children, especially Madelyn and Ryan. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Encourage us to ask the animals, that they might teach us; to listen to the birds of the air, that they might tell us; to enquire of the plants of the earth, that they might teach us, and the fish of the sea, that we might hear what they declare. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For the nations of the world, we pray. Inspire rulers to lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace, receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill, especially Martha Kryszczuk, and remember those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or broken. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For the ministry of this place, we pray. We celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Don and Marilyn Miller and give thanks to the glory of God through today's flower dedications. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

THE SOLO

*In the Bleak Midwinter*Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Gustav Holst (1974-1934) Arr. Richard Walters

Dr. Heidi Schneider, soprano

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; But His mother only, in her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING 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.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow "Old Hundredth"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

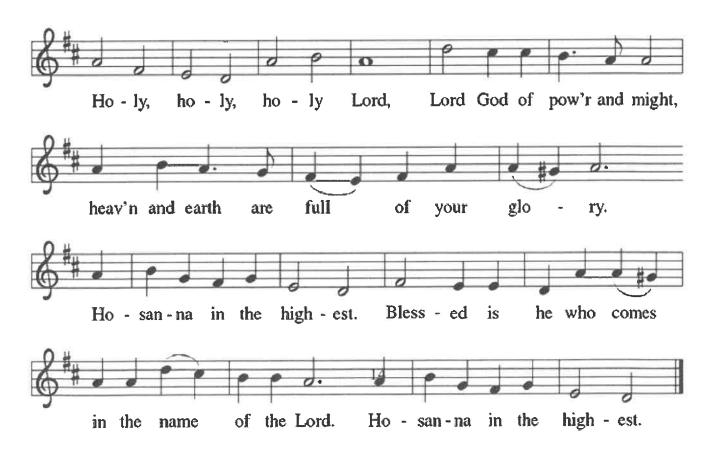
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

. . .

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

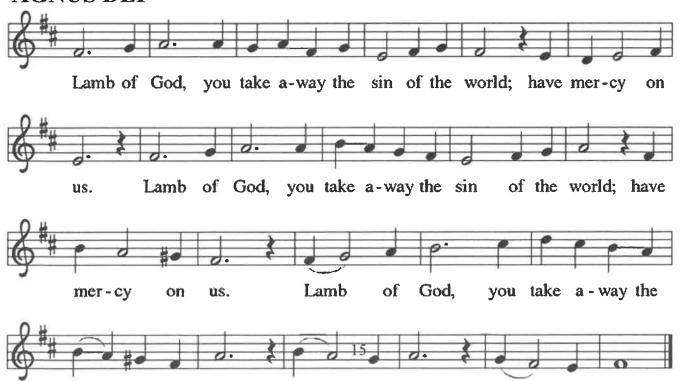
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.



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. 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 Sovereign 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.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

We invite congregation members to share this holy meal with people who are unable to worship in person. Communion elements and a simple printed liturgy are available on the altar to guide you. Please take a bulletin with you to be able to easily share today's scripture and prayers with the meal.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

The Bells of Christmas "Det kimer nu til julefest"

ELW 298, vs. 1-4

THE DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo'

Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)



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.

There will be no coffee hour today. We will continue next Sunday following the 10:30 Service.



Stewardship - Here

Thank you to those who lovingly decorated our church and to our music ministry for providing a very festive and welcoming space for all who worshiped with us this Christmas Season. Your efforts were a visible expression of our love for God and each other.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 29, 2024 – First Sunday of Christmas

8:30 am Service of Holy Communion (CH)

9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)

10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)

12:00 pm Recording Session (MC)

MONDAY, December 30, 2024

6:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)

WEDNESDAY, January 1, 2025 Happy New Year

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY, January 2, 2025

7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MC)

7:00 pm AA/AL-ANON (RH)

SUNDAY, January 5, 2025 - Epiphany of Our Lord

8:30 am Service of Holy Communion (CH)

9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)

10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)

10:30 am Sunday School/Nursery (SS)

11:30 am Coffee Hour (RH)

11:30 am Confirmation Class (FR)

12:00 pm Recording Session (MC)

CH = Mansperger Chapel

CI = Crib Room

CR = Conference Room

FR = Fellowship Room

FI = Fireside Room/Library

MC = Main Church

MR = Music Room

PS = Pastor's Study

RH = Redeemer Hall

SC = Sacristy

SS = Sunday School

YR = Youth Room

At 8:30 am the announcer and reader is Todd Kroening. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Griffin Miller.

At 10:30 am the announcer is Matt Brown. Reader is John Girdlestone. Ushers are Ron Leiser, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Marty Wright. Communion Assistant is Doug Alderdice. Chancel Care member is Vicki Oliver. Acolytes are Tim Yap, Morgan Leiser, Erys Yap, Rowan Leiser and Killian Brown.

The flowers on the altar are given In Celebration of our 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 26 by Don and Marilyn Miller; and To the Glory of God from Claire Carmer.

Collection counters are Linda Horton, Karen Kolb and Sue Spindler.

Council member Matt Brown, will be at the 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 Madelyn and Ryan Wolf.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR: There will be no coffee hour today. We will continue next Sunday following the 10:30 worship service.

POINSETTIAS: The Christmas flowers are available following the service. Please feel free to take one for yourself, a family member or a friend.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year's day holiday.

BIBLE STUDY: The Monday Morning Bible Study class is in recess for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Next up, Pastor Rich will lead a discussion of four major themes that run through our scriptures. Classes will resume January 6 at our regular time, 9:30 to 11:00 am, in the Fellowship Room. For the first class in our new series, bring one or a few of the themes you have found meaningful in your reading of the scriptures to contribute to our discussion. And remember, all are welcome to attend for one class or a whole series.

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.

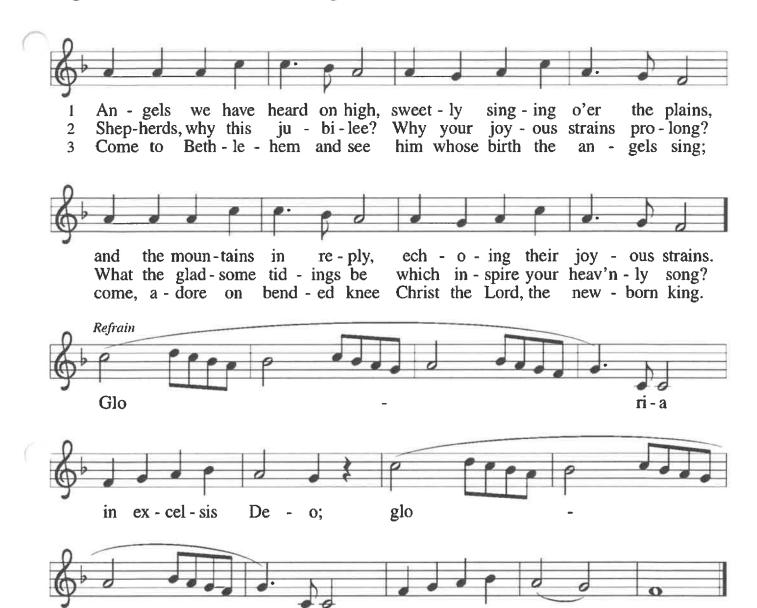
THE HT CARES TEAM is hosting a Life Transition Part 2 Workshop on March 29, 2025. This workshop will include information needed after death and dealing with emotional responses to a death. Plan ahead and get a jump on your new year's resolutions of planning and preparing. Join us for this important workshop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

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- January 26, 2025. 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

LUTHERAN YOUTH OF WNY SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT AT LCLC: Let's make this year's retreat one to remember! Sign up and bring a friend to experience all the newness of Camp in 2025 and all the renewal in Christ's love for us from January 3-5, 2025. Registration/info link: www.lclcenter.org/winter-retreats.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely, or depressed, Crisis Services is available. Their hotline number is 716-834-3131 and is available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Mr. Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

Angels We Have Heard on High "Gloria"



in ex-cel-sis

De

0.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

ri - a

Music: GLORIA, French carol



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es tate where ox and ass are feed ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Mar - y! bring him laud, the babe, the of haste, haste to son Mar - y! Word made flesh, the of hail, hail the babe, the son for Christ is born, the babe. the of Mar - v! son joy, joy,

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

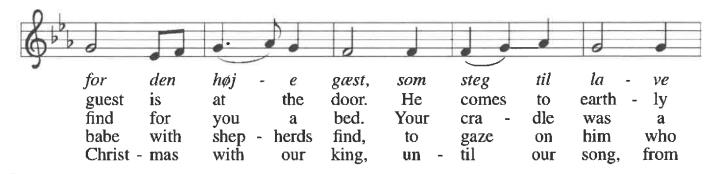
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

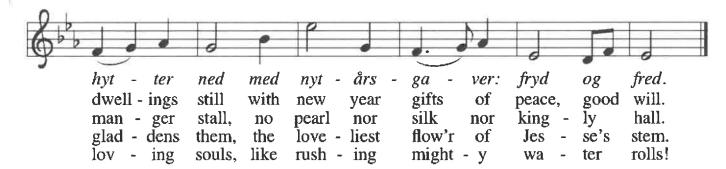
RECESSIONAL HYMN

The Bells of Christmas "Det kimer nu til julefest"

ELW 298, vs. 1-4







- O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt. Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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 1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209 (716) 886-2400 phone / (716) 884-7505 fax info@holytrinitybuffalo.org www.holytrinitybuffalo.org







@holytrinitybuffalo





Copyright ©2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright License No. 2435079/Streaming License No. CSPL101609