GRACEFULL

Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
10:00 am
December 25, 2019
Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church! Please sign the red Worship Witness booklet to record your attendance with us this day, and indicate how many are communing. Then pass the booklet to the worshipers beside you in your row. If you are a guest, name tags are available for you to wear—we would be delighted to greet you by name. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

about today’s service
As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore!

P: Presiding Minister   A: Assisting Minister   L: Lector   C: Congregation

Gathering

Prelude: Variations on “Il est Ne, Le Divin Enfant”
Jacques Kauffman

Welcome
[Stand]

Gathering Song No. 269: Once in Royal David’s City
IRBY

Greeting
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.
Confession and Forgiveness

P:  In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C:  Amen.

P:  Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P:  Merciful God,
C:  we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P:  In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C:  Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 275: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Prayer of the Day

P:  Let us pray. 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.
C:  Amen.

[Sit]† Word †

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, A City Not Forsaken.
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, 7 and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. 8 The 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; 9 but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. 10 Go 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. 11 The 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.” 12 They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

4 When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he 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. 6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

[Stand]

Turn to face the procession as it moves to the midst of God's people.

Gospel Verse: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;  
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Gospel Acclamation

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

The world’s deep night is shattered by the light of God’s new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

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. 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
Sing as the procession returns.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

[Sit]
Sermon: “Grace-FULL” 

[Stand]
Hymn of the Day No. 272: Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

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 Intercession

Each portion of the prayer ends:

A: Hear us, O God.
C: Your Mercy is great.
Prayer response

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels; the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

✝️ Meal ✝️

Peace
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

[Sit]

Offering
Optional giving methods: Use the Give+ app on your mobile device • Use the Giving Station in the Gathering Space • Text an amount to 717-963-2281 (be sure to use a “$”) • Use the “DONATE” button on our website and e-blasts

Worship Witness (Please sign booklet and return to center aisle)

Solo: “Welcome, Golden Rose” Canton/Nix

As shepherds all were watching in the midnight chill,
came the spotless Lamb of God from the heavenly hill.
Snow was on the mountains, and the wind was cold,
when from God’s own garden dropped a Rose of gold.
When it was bitter winter, houseless and forlorn,
in a starlit stable Christ the Lord was born....
Alleluia, baby, in the swaddling clothes;
welcome precious Savior, welcome Golden Rose!
Marianne Brock, soloist

[Stand]

Offertory: “What Child Is This”

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Offering Prayer
A: Let us pray. Generous God,
C: you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.
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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: Holy are you, embracing God... and joining our voices with angels and archangels, in the unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
Eucharist Prayer

P: Life-giving God, as your Word became flesh and lived among us...

P: Great is the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: God of glory, make your church a sign of new-born hope...
...and when all things shall be full of grace and truth in you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

C: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Love has come: God’s love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Angus Dei [Lamb of God]
Distribution of Holy Communion
We invite all baptized Christians to the Lord’s Table to celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament. Communion is by intinction. You will receive a wafer. Dip it in the chalice of wine before consuming. You may then return to your seat or come to the altar rail for prayer. Children and adults who aren’t communing may come forward to receive a blessing. As a gesture of hospitality, we use dealcoholized wine (less than .5% alcohol). In addition, we offer gluten-free wafers, available upon request – please ask at the time of communion.

Hymn No. 276: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Hymn No. 278: Away in a Manger

[Stand]

Prayer after Communion
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

A: Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.
C: Amen.

‡ Sending ‡

Blessing
P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ‡ give you peace.
C: Amen.

Closing Carol No. 288: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Dismissal
P: Christ is born!
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Joy to the World”

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister: The Rev. John H. Brock
Preacher: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey
Assisting Minister: Chris Mirocco
Communion Assistants: Richard and Fran Jacobs
Organist: Dan Dorty
Lector: Bob Park
Soundboard: Jim Kincaid
Altar care: Fran and Richard Jacobs
Greeter: Pat Eby

Worship Notes
The flowers in the Nave, the communion elements, and the sanctuary lamp candle, the symbol of God’s abiding presence, are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Roy M. Sheely, Jr. by his wife, Janet.

Poinsettia Pick-up. Any person who has ordered a poinsettia and has chosen to pick it up, please do so after the 10:00 a.m. service today (the building will be closed at 11:30 a.m.). Please do not take the plastic saucers as they are saved for future use. Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the beauty of Trinity at Christmas.

Your many greetings and gifts received by Trinity Church’s Staff are most appreciated. We bless you with peace and hope.

2019 contributions of offerings or special gifts must be received in the office by Monday, December 30, in order to be credited to 2018 giving statements.

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.
We wish you a blessed Christmas. It’s a wonderful time at Trinity, with hundreds of people, seen and unseen, handling all details large and small. Thank you to every person who has played a role.

Something else: Not everyone feels joy during this season. Some folks are grieving, or ill, or hurt, or lost. Reach out to those in need: a visit, a listening ear. But remember too that some folks hide their suffering; maybe it’s the person next to you, quiet but smiling. So be thoughtful, sensitive, and kind. And pray for all.

A MESSAGE
FROM OUR PASTORS AND STAFF

Regular Worship Times in 2020

Sunday Traditional 8:30 and 11:00 am • Sunday Contemporary 8:30 and 11:00 am
Saturday 5:30 pm • Thursday spoken service 6:30 pm • Friday prayer service 12 noon
Healing service monthly, third Sunday, 12:30 pm

• Everyone is welcome at Trinity. Families, singles. All walks of life.
• Children are welcome at any service. Or you can use our Sunday nursery for infants through age 5.
• Take advantage of our Faith Connection opportunities for infants through elders.
• Teens and pre-teens love our active Youth Group.
• Musically inclined? Find opportunities for everyone: vocal and bell choirs, instrumentalists, praise band.
• Serve our neighbors at home and abroad. Prayer shawls, quilts, mission trips, prison ministry, much more.
• Serve at Trinity. Usher, greet, read, give communion, help in kitchen or office, visit homebound folks, more.
• Connect with others. Enjoy meals, concerts, plays, walk/run group, all kinds of fellowship.

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