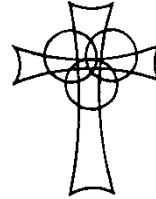


**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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 Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712



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*A Member Congregation of  
 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*



## The Nativity of our Lord

✂ ✂ ✂ *The Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist* ✂ ✂ ✂  
 December 24, 2020 ✂ 7:00 PM

*Whether you join us tonight in person or online: In the Name of Jesus Christ, Welcome!*



Tonight, the Church throughout the world gathers to recall the blessed event of the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son and Savior of the World. In the still quiet of this evening hour, Christ comes again among His people to give us the gift of Himself as He comes to us in His Holy Word and Sacraments. May our Newborn Savior, King, and Lord richly bless our worship this night as we adore Him at His Altar! As He comes to us this night in His Gifts of Word and Sacrament, this place is Bethlehem; this is the stable; this is where He lies now in the manger of Word and Bread and Wine. Come, Let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### *A Prayer As We Gather for Worship*

God of wonders, on this most holy night Your grace has appeared to humankind, for by a lowly birth, Your eternal Word has come to live as one of us. Let the life of Christ be the life of Christians; let Christ's death be their new birth; and Christ's Gospel, their inspiration. So shall You receive glory, and the whole earth be held in Your peace. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, who is one with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



**THE DIVINE SERVICE  
OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
ON THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

✘ *In the Name of Jesus Christ* ✘

✘ **The Preparation** ✘

Christmas Music for Meditation

The Prelude

“Once in Royal David’s City”

The Words of Welcome

*The Congregation rises.*

The Opening Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 376*

“Once in Royal David’s City”

- 1**   **Once in royal David’s city  
      Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
      Where a mother laid her baby  
      In a manger for His bed:  
      Mary was that mother mild,  
      Jesus Christ her little child.**
  
- 2**   **He came down to earth from heaven,  
      Who is God and Lord of all,  
      And His shelter was a stable,  
      And His cradle was a stall;  
      With the poor and mean and lowly  
      Lived on earth our Savior holy.**
  
- 3**   **For He is our childhood’s pattern,  
      Day by day like us He grew;  
      He was little, weak, and helpless,  
      Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
      And He feels for all our sadness,  
      And He shares in all our gladness.**
  
- 4**   **And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
      Through His own redeeming love;  
      For that child so dear and gentle  
      Is our Lord in heav’n above;  
      And He leads His children on  
      To the place where He is gone.**

*The Hymn continues on the next page...*

- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
 With the oxen standing by  
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
 Set at God's right hand on high.  
 Then like stars His children, crowned,  
 All in white, His praise will sound!**

*Text: Public domain*

The Blessing of the Crèche:

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord, for us and for our salvation our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, thus fulfilling the word of the prophet Isaiah, "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Let this crèche remind us that the Lord Jesus came into our flesh and is truly our Savior.

**P** Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
 Eternity shut in a span.

**C Summer in winter, day in night,  
 heaven in earth and God in man.**

**P** Great Little One whose all-embracing birth

**C brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.**

*Richard Crashaw*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, on this night You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless this crèche, which shows the wonders of that sacred birth, that all who behold it may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this crèche for use in His Church.

**C Amen.**

The Confession of Sin:

**P** Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts and to forgive and heal us. In His light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*A time of silence is kept for confession and self-examination*

**P** God our Father, You sent Your Son to us full of grace and truth:  
Forgive our failure to receive Him. Lord, have mercy.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Jesus our Savior, You are the Mighty God and Prince of Peace:  
Forgive our failure to live out and share Your peace. Christ, have mercy.

**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Spirit of love and life, You reveal Jesus to us in Word and Sacrament:  
Forgive our failure to receive and live out our lives through these gifts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** The God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to Himself, that you may behold  
the glory of His Son, the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

✠ **The Service of the Word** ✠

The Hymn of Praise

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 368*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**1** **Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain***

***Refrain*** **Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**2** **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain***

**3** **Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

*Text: Public domain*

The Salutation and Collect of the Day:

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The Congregation is seated*

The Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Candlelighting:

*Owing to the current conditions, tonight we will be using battery operated candles for both safety and distance keeping. As the Hymn is introduced, please turn on your candle by turning the “flame” until it lights. At the direction of the Pastor, please rise for the singing of the Carol.*

*For those joining us online, please light a candle that you have available with you where you are to share with us in this moment of light.*

The Carol at the Gospel

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 363

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- 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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain



- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

#### The Versicles and Prayer for Light:

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.  
**C** **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

- P** The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.  
**C** **And we have beheld Christ's glory.**

- P** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**C** **In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.**

- P** Let us pray.  
 Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your Incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may always shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Hymn of the Day

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 377*

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

- 1 **On Christmas night all Christians sing  
 To hear the news the angels bring,  
 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
 To hear the news the angels bring,  
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
 News of our merciful King’s birth.**
  
- 2 **Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
 Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
 When from our sin He set us free,  
 All for to gain our liberty?**
  
- 3 **When sin departs before His grace,  
 Then life and health come in its place,  
 When sin departs before His grace,  
 Then life and health come in its place;  
 Angels and men with joy may sing,  
 All for to see the newborn King.**
  
- 4 **All out of darkness we have light,  
 Which made the angels sing this night,  
 All out of darkness we have light,  
 Which made the angels sing this night:  
 “Glory to God and peace to men  
 Now and forevermore. Amen.”**

*Text: Public domain*

*The Congregation extinguishes their candles and is seated*

The Sermon

Good News for a Weary World

*The Congregation rises*





## The Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayer of the Church

- P** To save us and make us His children and heirs, our Father in heaven has given His most precious Treasure, His Son, to be born of the Blessed Virgin. Let us cast aside all fear, then, and come boldly to our loving Father's throne, praying in the Spirit for all mankind, for the holy Church and for our needs of body and soul.
- P** Let us pray for the Church throughout the world, that all the baptized, by their faithful witness to the Gospel, bear the joy of the Light and Life of Christ into the darkness and death of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Let us pray for this congregation, the Mekane Yesus congregation, and all Christian communities, that all God's people would find joy overflowing in their adoption by the heavenly Father through Holy Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all who wander in the darkness still, unaware of the love of Christ, that the Holy Spirit enlighten their hearts so that they may join us in confessing and praising Him who became the Child of the Blessed Virgin Mary in order to make us all the children of God. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for the leaders of nations and for all of our nation's elected leaders, that their governing may reflect the peace, justice, and righteousness of the Child born Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all who serve in our armed forces and are far from home during this festive season, for our enemies, and for all victims of violence and war, that their lives may be touched by the Prince of Peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for emergency room doctors and nurses, police, firefighters and for all who work to provide for our safety and protection even on this night. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all who because of this time of pandemic celebrate this time differently, especially apart from the company of family and friends, that they may find joy even through connections made virtually or distanced, and most especially through Your presence which holds us together as one. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who are sick, for those who are dying, for the grieving and the lonely, and for all whom we have been asked to remember in prayer, especially all those we name before the Lord from the silence of our hearts... Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all who approach the holy altar on this Feast, that, welcoming Emmanuel who comes in His Body and Blood, they be strengthened and sustained in living faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord for all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number whose hope was in the Word made Flesh and with whom in Him we are one forevermore. And we pray to the Lord that we too may be brought to share in their unending joy.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** These prayers and praises we offer in the Name of Him who came among us as Mary's Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

**P** Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and His Name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** **And also with you.**

*The Congregation is seated*

✠ **The Service of the Sacrament** ✠

The Hymn of Preparation

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 361*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**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!**

*The Hymn continues on the next page...*

3 **How silently, how silently**  
    **The wondrous gift is giv'n!**  
**So God imparts to human hearts**  
    **The blessings of His heav'n.**  
**No ear may hear His coming;**  
    **But in this world of sin,**  
**Where meek souls will receive Him, still**  
    **The dear Christ enters in.**

4 **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 Immanuel!**

*Text: Public domain*

*The Congregation rises*

The Preface Dialogue and *Sanctus*:

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



**C** *sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"*  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of hosts, all praise be giv'n!  
All Your glory fills the earth,  
All Your power fills the heav'ns!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the King who came,  
Bringing love and light divine!  
Blessed is the King who comes  
In the Bread and in the Wine!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

#### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Thanks be to You, O Lord, because in these last days You did send to us Your beloved Servant, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior and our Redeemer and the Messenger of Your will; Who is Your Word inseparable from You; through whom You made all things and with whom You were well-pleased; whom You did send from heaven into the womb of the Virgin, and who, having been conceived within her, became flesh, and was manifested as Your Son, being born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin.

Who, when He was betrayed to His voluntary suffering, in order that He might abolish death, break the bonds of the adversary, tread hell underfoot, give light to the righteous, establish a memorial, and manifest the resurrection, took bread, gave thanks to You, and said: "Take eat, this is My ✠ Body, which is broken for you." Likewise also the cup, saying: "This is My ✠ Blood which is poured out for you. As often as you do this, you shall do it in remembrance of Me."

Therefore, having in remembrance His death and resurrection, we give thanks to You, because You have counted us worthy to stand before You and to serve you. Gather into one, we pray You, all Your holy people who partake hereof; fill them with Your Holy Spirit for the confirmation of their faith in the truth; and grant that we may praise and glorify You through Your Servant, Jesus Christ; through whom all honor and glory belongs to You, the Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**P** Commanded by Christ's saving precepts and informed by His divine instruction, we are bold to say:

**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.**

The *Pax Domini*:

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

The *Agnus Dei*

*Sung to the Tune of "Once in Royal David's City"*

- C** Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer,  
Mercy to Your people give.  
Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer,  
May we in Your mercy live.  
Lamb of God, we all implore:  
Grant us peace forevermore.

*The Congregation is seated*

The Distribution of Holy Communion:

*Lutherans believe that in this Sacrament the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are present in, with, and under the physical elements of bread and wine. And this Sacrament is distributed to the Baptized of the Church who believe in the Presence of Christ in the Sacrament, sincerely repent of their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this Holy Meal. Those who are present at this celebration who are baptized, have been instructed in the meaning of this Supper, and believe likewise are welcome to commune with us at this Altar today.*

*Holy Communion is distributed to the congregation in a continuous manner in front of the altar. Please follow the direction of the ushers to make your way to the Altar. The Sacrament is distributed in the following way...Please extend your hand to the Pastor to receive the Body of Christ. Christ's Blood is then received from individual cups from the assistant (wine and white grape juice are available). After receiving, please place your empty cup into the tray at the end of the communion rail and return to your seat by way of the side aisle. Children and those not wishing to receive the Sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor.*

Music at the Distribution: "Away in a Manger" (Cradle Song)

*After all have communed, the Pastor continues:*

The Eucharistic Blessing:

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.  
**C** Amen.

*The Congregation rises.*

- C** Lord, now in Your mercy Your servants release  
As Your word has promised. Oh, grant us Your peace.  
Our eyes Your salvation and mercy behold,  
Prepared for the nations, as prophets foretold,  
  
A Light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see  
The glory of Israel, the Promised One He  
Who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Sun,  
With Father and Spirit eternally One.

The Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Prayer:

- P** Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.  
**C** And His mercy endures forever.  
  
**P** Let us pray.  
We give You thanks, almighty and merciful God, that You have refreshed us with  
Your Holy Sacrament, and we beseech You to make us partakers of Your divine life  
through the Incarnation of Your beloved Son, with whose Body and Blood You  
have now nourished us; for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

The *Benedicamus* and Blessing:

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
  
**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!  
  
**P** May Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**C** Amen.

The Hymn to Depart

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 387*

"Joy to the World"

- 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.

*The Hymn continues on the next page...*

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
 Let men 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 sins and sorrows 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.**

*Text: Public domain*

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Postlude

“Joy to the World”

✘ *To God All Praise and Glory!* ✘

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service from Lutheran Service Book

The texts of the *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, and *Nunc Dimittis* Hymns are from *Creative Worship Resources* by Creative Communications for the Parish.

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## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



*Please join us for worship either in person or by livestream  
as we greet the Lord who comes again to us.*

*Livestream Worship is available on our Church Facebook Page  
either live at the scheduled time or at any time from the Facebook Page under “Videos”.  
The link to the Facebook Page is available on the Church Website: [www.tlcmr.org](http://www.tlcmr.org)  
Also available are the orders of service on the Church Website.  
Just scroll down on the homepage to the section “Livestreaming Worship”*

***The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord***  
**Christmas Day – December 25, 2020 – 9:30 AM**  
*Festival Eucharist*

As we greet the Lord on the happy morning of Christmas, join us for this time of worship  
celebrating Jesus, the Word made flesh for us.

**The First Sunday after Christmas – December 27, 2020 – 9:30 AM**  
*Divine Service with Christmas Carol Sing*

Join us for this opportunity to sing the well-loved songs of Christmas as we sing out our joy  
in the Savior’s birth.

**The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord – January 3, 2021 – 9:30 AM**  
*Festival Eucharist*

Let us go with the Magi to Bethlehem to greet the One who is our King and as He gives us His  
gifts of grace which come through His Word and Sacraments.

**The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord – January 10, 2021 – 9:30 AM**  
*Festival Eucharist*

We conclude our Christmas celebrations as we remember our Lord Jesus’ baptism by John in the  
Jordan and reconsecrating ourselves as we remember our own baptisms.

# *Christmas Flower Donations, 2020*

*We thank the following for helping to adorn our Lord's Altar  
this Christmas with the gift of flowers:*

Skip and Rachel Hall in Memory of Chuck Sinkoske

The Juhasz Family in Memory of Loved Ones

The Peele Family in Memory of Rhonda Clark

Sylvia Royal in Memory of Loved Ones

Pastor and Kim Schiebel in Memory of Departed Loved Ones

Sam and Judy Welch to the Glory of God

*The Special Altar Floral Arrangement is given to the Glory of God  
in loving memory of Betty Kruelle  
by Gus Kruelle*



## **Trinity Stay-Safe Rules**

- ❖ If you are sick, PLEASE STAY HOME, and please get under a doctor's care.
- ❖ If you are over 65 or immunocompromised, please be careful, follow the rules here at church, or feel free to stay home with God's blessing and ours. (We'll be here when you are ready to come back to worship.)
- ❖ While in the church building, please wear a mask as much as possible for the sake of your neighbors.
- ❖ Please spread out in church in order to do the recommended distancing (six feet). In addition to the pews in the nave, you may also be seated in the balcony or church overflow. Of course, families who reside together may sit together.
- ❖ Wash your hands often. 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is available for you to use as well. Try not to touch your face.
- ❖ Cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow.
- ❖ Please, no handshaking. Use an elbow bump or wave for now.
- ❖ Limit your socializing indoors after the service; or better yet, use distanced visiting with one another outside.
- ❖ All Worship materials are printed for each service. As we will not be reusing them, please take them home with you to recycle.
- ❖ Offerings will not be collected during the service. Please place your offering in the basket on the table in the rear of the nave, or continue to mail in your offering to the church office.
- ❖ Holy Communion will be distributed in a continuous fashion using individual wafers and cups. Please follow the direction of the usher to go forward and receive the Sacrament, and please keep a distance in line between persons.