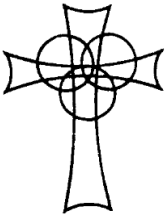




*For the grace of
God has appeared,
bringing salvation
for all people.*

Titus 2:11, ESV



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

4000 – 30th Street

at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road

Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

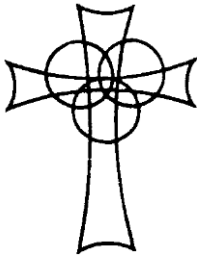
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor

Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340

Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org



A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





The Nativity of our Lord

✱ ✱ ✱ *The Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist* ✱ ✱ ✱

December 24, 2023 ✱ 7:00 PM

*Whether you are joining us in person or online tonight—
To our Members, Friends and Guests: 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!

Concerning Holy Communion at Trinity

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. Anyone who desires, child or adult, may come forward to receive a blessing.





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

✠ *In the Name of Jesus Christ* ✠

✠ The Preparation ✠

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 roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain

The Invocation:

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

The Blessing of the Crèche:

The Pastor takes his place at the Crèche.

- 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.”

Isaiah 7:14

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 Sins and Absolution:

The rite is led from the Crèche.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.** *Isaiah 9:2*

P You shall call His Name Jesus,

C **For He will save His people from their sins.** *Matthew 1:21*

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.

Silence is kept for a time of self-examination and personal confession.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

The Introit of the Day

Psalm 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Wisdom 18:14-15

P When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

C **Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?**

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his anointed.

C **He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

P Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

C **“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

gloria
IN EXCELSIS DEO

The Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 368

“Angels We Have Heard on High”



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: 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

² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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.**

The Anthem

“Mary, Did You Know” – The Trinity Singers

The Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who 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 Candle Lighting:

Tonight, we are using battery operated candles for safety. At this time, please turn on your candle by turning the “flame” until it lights.

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 Congregation rises.

The Gradual and Verse

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a
Luke 2:11*

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

C **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C **for he has done marvelous things!**

P Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior

C **who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And 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.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**



The Carol of Response

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 363

“Silent Night, Holy Night”



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain



The Versicles and Prayer for Light:

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

From John 8:12 and 1:5

P The Word became flesh and dwelled among us.

C **And we have beheld Christ's glory.**

From John 1:14

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.**

From Isaiah 9:6 and John 1:4

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 Congregation extinguishes their candles and is seated



The Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 378

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And
 2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose
 3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not
 grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I
 Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This
 cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste
 deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -
 from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and
 me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan
 dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -
 love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. "Lutheran Hymnal (Australia)", 1973; Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text: © 1973 Openbook Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002353

Tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Grace Appeared

Text: Titus 2:11-14

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.
- A**nd 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.
- A**nd 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.
- A**men.

The Prayer of the Church:

- P** On this Christmas night, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently pray for the whole Church of God, for the world the Savior came to redeem, and for all people according to their needs.
- P** In love, O God, You descended from Your heavenly throne. You did this because you desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and live. For the sake of Your Son, hear our prayers for those who yet have a right knowledge of You. Use us as messengers of Your infinite love so that by Your Word and Spirit, those who live in the darkness of sin might hear the Christmas Gospel, confess Your holy Name, and so come to live in the light of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** In love, O God, You order and preserve all things. We beseech You, good Lord, to preserve our world from discord and strife and to give all people Your protection in every time of need. Direct and defend all of the leaders of the world and of our own nation so that they may serve Your people with all honesty and uprightness. Give courage to our military, the civilians who assist them, and to their families who miss the presence of their loved ones, especially during this Christmastide. In the midst of wars and rumors of wars, keep our focus on the true peace that comes from Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In love, O God, You chose to dwell with an earthly family. Grant Your blessing to all families. Keep all harm and danger far from them. By Your power, may they dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In love, O God, You walked among us on this earth. Grant Your protection to all who travel this Christmastide. Keep their ways safe and make their homecomings joyful. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In love, O God, You took up the frailties of our human flesh. Abide with all who are weary with the challenges and burdens of life. As they strive to live with sickness, worry, fear, or grief, remove any doubt or unbelief from Your people. Evermore remind them and all who suffer afflictions that You are their Immanuel and are with them in the midst of their daily struggles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In love, O God, You came to be the One to reveal Your love to the world. Trusting in Your loving care we commend to Your mercy all those prayers and concerns which we have that we now lift up before You from the silence of our hearts.... Hear all of our prayers, and answer them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In love, O God, You manifested Yourself among us. By Your Flesh and Blood, given with bread and wine, You bestow forgiveness, life, and salvation. Keep all who partake of this Holy Sacrament firm in the faith, that they may live in You even as You live in them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P In love, O God, You came to rescue us from the threatening perils of our sins. Grant us a blessed Christmastide as we rejoice in this gracious gift of rescue. During this commemoration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, keep us ever mindful of the heavenly ground, the place where all Your saints dwell and where true joy shall be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

His Name
Shall Be Called
Prince of Peace

✻ The Service of the Sacrament ✻

The Hymn of Preparation

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 361

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain



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*

Tune: *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 and the Words of Our Lord:

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;

- P** 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* Hymn:

Tune: *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

Holy Communion is celebrated in this place in the joyful confidence that Jesus Christ Himself comes to us to give us in bread and wine His very Body and Blood to offer to us the forgiveness of sins. All Baptized Christians who have been instructed in the meaning of this Sacrament and confess with us Christ's Real Presence in this Holy Meal are welcome to commune with us at this Altar. A fuller explanation of what Lutherans believe concerning Holy Communion may be found on page one of this worship folder.

Holy Communion is distributed to the congregation at the chancel rail. Please follow the direction of the ushers to make your way to the Altar. You may kneel or stand as you feel comfortable. The Sacrament is distributed in the following manner...Please extend your hand to the assistant to receive the Body of Christ. Christ's Blood may be received in one of two ways, using that which you feel most comfortable: 1) individual cups containing wine and white grape juice will be offered by the Pastor, or 2) drinking from the chalice. Children and those not wishing to receive the Sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

Music During the Distribution:

The Trinity Singers:

“One Small Babe”

The Congregational Carol

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 374

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



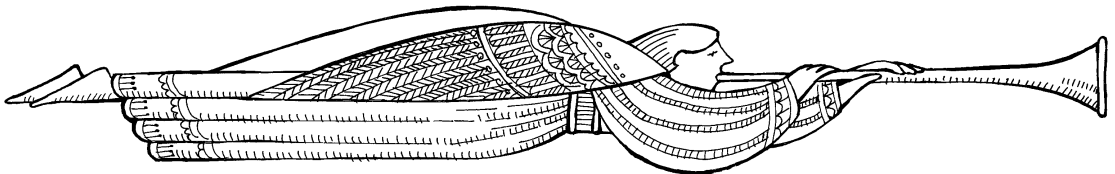
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Text and tune: Public domain

The Congregation rises.



The *Nunc Dimittis* Hymn

Tune: *Away in a Manger* (Cradle Song)

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 re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Postlude

“Joy to the World”

✠ To God Be 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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THOSE WHO SERVE US THIS EVENING IN WORSHIP

The Celebrant & Preacher
The Lector
The Communion Assistant
The Worship Assistant
The Choir
The Parish Musician

The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel
Tracy Peele
George Kurtzweil
Paul Ritter
The Trinity Singers
Skip Hall





CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
Christmas Day – December 25, 2023**

Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

**The First Sunday after Christmas
Eve of the Circumcision and Holy Name of Jesus
New Year's Eve – December 31, 2023**

No Adult Bible Class

Festival Worship Service with Christmas Carol Sing and Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

**Celebration of The Epiphany and The Baptism of our Lord:
The First Sunday after the Epiphany – January 7, 2024**

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class at 8:30 AM

Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Christmas Flower Donations 2023

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

Rachel & Skip Hall in Honor of Melissa & Robin & Families

Gus Kruelle in Memory of Betty Kruelle

The Juhasz Family in Memory of Loved Ones

The Peele Family in Memory of Doris Peele

Pastor & Kim Schiebel in Memory of Departed Loved Ones

Judy Welch to the Glory of God



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Sunday Mornings:
Adult Bible Study – 8:30 AM
Worship with Holy Communion – 9:30 AM

*Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook Live
For more information, please visit the church website.*

Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor



*We Are a Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

