

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
FESTIVAL LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2024
6:00 P.M.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Asterisk () indicates that worshipers should please stand as able.
Congregational responses are printed in **bold** typeface.
Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.
*The worship livestream begins 10 minutes before the service.**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

Please be seated in prayerful silence during the prelude, which begins our worship together.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRELUDE

Deacon Ned Perwo

PRELUDE

Ned Perwo, Director of Music Ministry

Eric McLaughlin, piano Victoria McLaughlin, flute & vocals

Sweet Holy Child

-David Paxton

Mary's Boy Child

-Jester Hairston

The Holly and the Ivy

-Lani Smith

Fanfare on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

-Robert Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary V. Farnham

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
 The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have beheld Christ's glory,
 the glory as of a father's only son, **full of grace and truth.**
 In the Word was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

*GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

*GREETING

Today Christ is born: alleluia, alleluia!

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

- Roy Churchman

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



FIRST CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

3
born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and
hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
born a child and yet a king, born to reign in
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -

6
sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Glory to God 83
TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC (STUTT GART 8.7.8.7): Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

- Diane Churchman

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

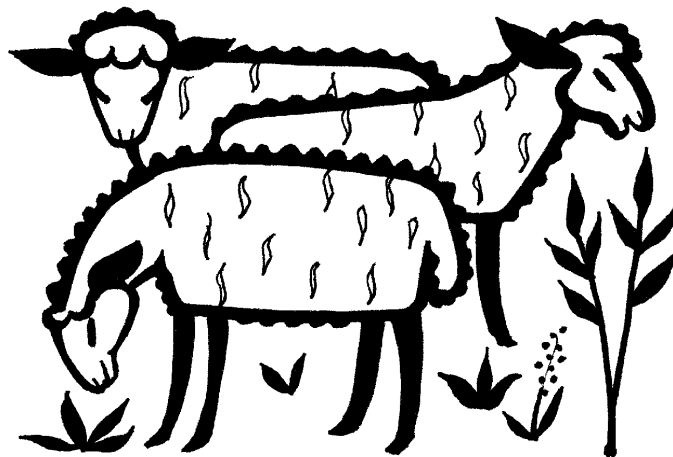
²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.



SECOND CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Stanzas 1 & 2)

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.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel,

"How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy;

he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

THIRD CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (Stanzas 1 & 2)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865–1943, and John Wickham

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
 10 10 12 10

Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."



FOURTH CAROL

All Earth is Hopeful
(Stanzas 1, 2 & 4)

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.

yel sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

In 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.

FIFTH CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

SERMON

-Pastor Mary

TIME OF REFLECTION

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The First Noel
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
great light, and so it con - tin-ued both day and night.
in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.
and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***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



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

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste.

As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy.

As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory.

Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness.

Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger.

Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room.

Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary.

Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God, including those for whom Christmas gifts have been given.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you.

With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

[Presiding Minister]

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 the Prince of Peace be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

(Scan To Give)



Our offering is an expression of thanks for God's love of us. We give with grateful hearts, aware that many gifts are given **to** us in order to pass **through** us to others! As faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us, our generosity as a faith family makes a difference- beneath our steeple, in our community, in our Synod, within the ELCA, and around this world God loves so very much.

~The Stewardship Team~

Please pass the Friendship Registers at this time.

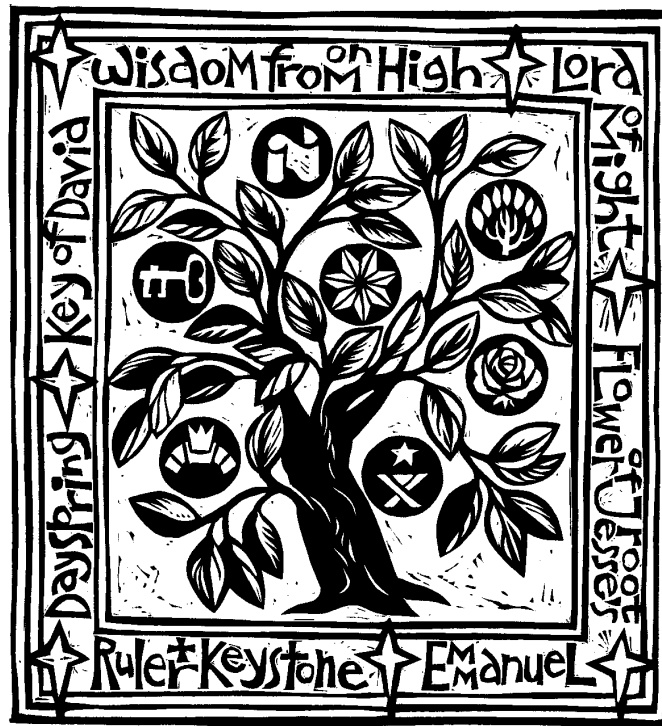
OFFERTORY

-The Holy Trinity Ringers

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

Arr. by John A. Behnke



*OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child Is This



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;



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



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third and fourth staves each have a single measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' respectively. The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.


In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Intro (first time only) *All*



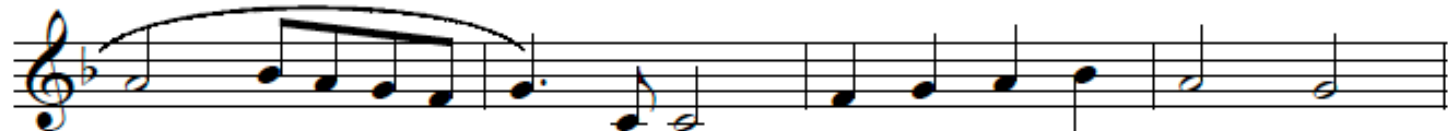
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Bles - sed is the one who came,



God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes



all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - - -
in the bread and in the wine.



- - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - - - -



- ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

All baptized Christians who believe the Lord is truly present in this sacrament are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communicants file forward from the center aisle. They receive the consecrated host, then choose either a prefilled cup of consecrated red wine or consecrated white grape juice from the tray held by Communion assistant. Communicants place used glass in separate tray and then return to their seats by the side aisles. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God from Beth-le-hem, where Ma-ry__gave you birth,



grant us your mer-cy, gra-cious Lord, Re deem-er__ of the earth.



O Lamb of God, for-give us, for we still live in sin.



O, come to us, a-bide with us, and grant us peace with-in.



COMMUNION HYMN

Silent Night



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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 your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
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 your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

Pastor Mary

The God of love,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

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



*SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Deacon Ned Perwo

Toccatina on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" -Douglas Wagner

"Thank You" to Our Musicians

Eric McLaughlin, piano Victoria McLaughlin, flute
Ewan Coppola, guitar Vaughn Coppola, bass Dean Coppola, percussion
The Holy Trinity Ringers
Deacon Ned Perwo, Director of Music Ministry

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr | Thursday, December 26, 2024

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist | Friday, December 27, 2024

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus | Wednesday, January 1, 2025

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Thursday, January 2, 2025 Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Announcements

LIVE-STREAMING WORSHIP:

Wed. 7 a.m.; Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. 8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Please see our website for solutions to gather remotely,
including downloadable orders of worship and
Pastor Mary's sermon.

WEBSITE

www.holytrinity-elca.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

Click "Calendar" on the website homepage.

SIGN-UPS:

Click "Sign-Ups" on the website homepage.

HT Office Hours

New Year's Eve – closing at noon, returning Thurs., Jan. 2

THE NURSERY is located under the narthex (rear of the sanctuary) and accessed via the descending staircase. Nursery is available to all families who wish to use it; families are asked to supervise their own children--there is no designated nursery attendant. Video from the sanctuary can be viewed on the nursery TV. Turn it on using the TV remote, wait for it to boot up and select "HDMI 1" for the video feed. Audio from the sanctuary can be heard through the nursery speakers. Please do not adjust TV volume. Please note: children are **always** welcomed in worship!

Eternal Light, Bread & Wine and Bulletins are given to the glory of God by John Cooney in loving memory of his sister, Jean, and in honor of her birthday.

LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE: THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Signing the friendship register tells us you were present and gives you a chance to provide or update contact info. Please share your e-mail address to receive on-line updates about HT happenings. Our Holy Trinity constitution requires that active confirmed members receive Holy Communion and make a "contribution of record" at least once every other year. Using an offering envelope from the pew ensures that your gift is properly credited.

Visitors, please sign the friendship register, phone or e-mail us!

HEALING SERVICE AND LUNCHEON: Please join us on **Wed., Jan., 8 at 11 a.m.** Our healing service includes Scripture, song, prayer, lighting of candles, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and Holy Communion. An assisting minister and ushers are needed. Social Ministry is hosting a luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship. Please sign up to serve in worship and for the luncheon on-line or through the HT office: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BADAC2CA4FA7-45419977-post>

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Join us on Sunday, January 26 immediately following 8:45 a.m. worship (approximately 9:45 a.m.). Please note: there will be only one worship service on Jan. 26; we will worship at 5 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 25, as usual. There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 26; however, there will be an activity for children whose parents attend the meeting. If weather prevents the meeting from taking place on Jan. 26, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 2, following 8:45 a.m. worship. Should this occur, we'll send an eblast and leave word on the HT website homepage.

A quorum (15%) of voting members is required to conduct the meeting; for us this is 75 persons. The meeting agenda will include voting on the budget, a revised Constitution/Bylaws, and becoming a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation. The meeting will also include the election of Council, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Committee members.

Questions? There will be an "Annual Meeting Q&A" after 5 p.m. worship on Sat., Jan. 18, and also during coffee hour on Sun., Jan. 19.

GENEALOGY GROUP MEETS THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS each month at **11:30 a.m. in the Council Room.** We welcome all who are interested in exploring their family tree, beginners to advanced. We would love to have you join us!

FATIH AND BLUE ANTI-FRAUD PRESENTATION: Officer Kevin Istvanditsch from Manasquan Police will be with us on **Sat., Jan. 11, after 5 p.m. worship** for a fraud prevention presentation: "Common Scams: how to identify them and how to protect yourself." The materials include specific, simple, effective ways to spot a scam and avoid being victimized.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Wed., Jan. 15, 12:30 p.m. in the Council Room. All are welcomed to come, share experiences, and have hopeful conversations. Susan Nolan, LCSW grief counselor, leads the group. Please contact Susan Bramley, founder of the group, at 848-702-5602 for further information.

“LESSONS FROM DIETRICH BONHOEFFER IN A HOUSE DIVIDED

AND A WORLD ON FIRE”: Join Pastor Mary and Susan Ardito for 6 sessions over 6 weeks to explore the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with special emphasis on lessons for living at the intersection of faith and civic life today. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian living in Nazi Germany; he eventually joined the Resistance and was arrested and killed before the end of WWII. This curriculum was compiled by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, an internationally renowned Bonhoeffer scholar and president of the International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section. Goal: to explore the life of one of the most famous Lutherans of the 20th century, in order to inspire deeper conversation and discernment about how we live as disciples. **Thursdays., Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 10-11:30 a.m. Please RSVP by Jan. 12** on-line or through the HT office:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BADAC2CA4FA7-54096044-lessons>

Each participant will receive a workbook.

HOLY TRINITY/ST. DENIS "AMEN EFFECT" BOOK STUDY:

Pastor Mary and Fr. Bill Lago will lead discussion of *the amen effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World*, by Rabbi Sharon Brous. Brous writes about the healing power of "showing up" for individuals and the community in times of pain and sorrow, joy and celebration. She offers compelling examples and invites us to consider how to mend broken hearts and rebuild our society in times of loneliness and isolation. Please join the conversation! (Holy Trinity had a 2 week series on *the amen effect* this past May; we discovered that was nowhere near enough time to mine the richness of this book. We didn't want to leave any of the beauty unexplored, so we're revisiting the discussion. Even if you participated before, please come again!) **Weds., Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 11 a.m.-noon at Holy Trinity and 7-8 p.m. in St. Denis Parish Center.** Please RSVP:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BADAC2CA4FA7-53912715-holy> or go to the HT website under Sign Ups or call the church office for assistance.

***<https://streicker.nyc/past-event-recordings>.)

ONE WARM COAT: We will continue to collect coats into January, so those who receive new coats through December can donate the ones they no longer use. Social Ministry makes sure they go to organizations that supply warm coats to those in need.

INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COUNT THE WEEKLY OFFERING?

The Finance Team is scheduling counters of the weekly offering in 2024 and we need additional members who are willing to serve. The count takes place each Sunday following 8:45 a.m. worship and requires approximately six Sundays a year of volunteering. (We are flexible.) You will be teamed up with another member of HT, so it is a great way to get to know other members. If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer opportunity please contact Ralph Jensen at Ralphejensen@aol.com.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER 11 A.M. ON TUESDAYS: Join our weekly Intercessory Prayer gathering via computer or telephone to pray for loved ones, special needs and the world.

Contact Peter Seggel at pastoralcare@holytrinity-elca.org or (862) 588-5107 to receive log-on or dial-in info. Contact Peter with prayer requests.

GETTING CLOSER TO 500!! 493 HT INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS! You can officially follow us [@holytrinity_squan](https://www.instagram.com/holytrinity_squan). Please email any photos you'd like to submit for posting to instagram@holytrinity-elca.org.

MANASQUAN MINISTERIUM FOOD PANTRY: 'tis the season for giving, and as the year comes to a close, the Pantry Volunteers would like to thank you for all the support you have given throughout 2024! Without you, we would not be able to successfully continue this ministry, about which we feel so passionately. We wish you and your loved ones a joyous, faith-filled holiday season.

Our shelves for cannellini and kidney beans, noodles and oil are looking sparse, so any of these donations to end the year would be appreciated. Monetary donations and gift cards for Aldi or ShopRite are also of great use for pantry volunteers to purchase chicken, fresh produce and other needed items.

Do you or someone you know need confidential assistance from our community food pantry? Please call (732) 223-0898 to reach the ecumenical food pantry located on the lower level of Manasquan Presbyterian Church.

{Or...do you need assistance and live in Brick or Point? Contact St. Thomas Lutheran Church Food Pantry at (732) 477-5533.}



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6 Osborn Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Pastor: The Rev. Mary V. Farnham

pastor@holytrinity-elca.org

Deacon: Ned Perwo

Music Ministry

music@holytrinity-elca.org

Youth & Family Ministry

yfm@holytrinity-elca.org

Pastoral Visitor: Peter Seggel

pastoralcare@holytrinity-elca.org

(862) 588-5107

Office Manager: Mary Burdwood

office@holytrinity-elca.org

Church Telephone Number

(732) 223-0533

Church Office Hours

M-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. (closed 12-1 for lunch); closed Friday

Church Website: www.holytrinity-elca.org

NJ Synod Website: www.njsynod.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Website: www.elca.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004238.

Musical selections reprinted by permission under One License Annual License A-710395.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.