<u>Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA</u>

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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 – 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm
Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube (Trinity LutheranSparta)
Our worship service will also be recorded
and will be available on our website www.tlcsparta.org



Order of Worship

Prelude Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

The Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1 & 2)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Hear the word from the Prophet Micah 5:2-5

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.

Today we light the four advent candles. The candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We also light the Christ candle which stands in the center of the other four candles. All the advent candles find their fulfillment in the white Christ candle. Our hope, peace, joy and love are all fulfilled by Jesus Christ, God's only Son, born in a manger. As we have received these gifts from Jesus, let us turn and share them with the world. Let us call all to come to Jesus Christ and be filled with the Spirit of God.

Please join me in Prayer:

Holy God, as we see these candles bring light in this place, so bring the light of Christ into our hearts, that we may live and share the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ every day. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepards in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, noel, noel! Born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, noel, noel! Born is the king of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the king of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest. O'er Bethlehem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, noel, noel! Born is the king of Israel.

Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev'rently upon their knee, And offered their in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Noel, noel, noel! Born is the king of Israel.

*Prayer of the Day

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.

Christmas Anthem – Alleluia Choir (3:00 p.m. service)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the voke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders. the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

*Gospel Acclamation



This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke the second Chapter.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in

^{*} Symbol indicates a time when the congregation stands

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Gospel Response: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 and 2)

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.

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!

Sermon

*Hymn: I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth! Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!

For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today; and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing; he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.

And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too; and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

*Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you

Offering

Carol: Away in a Manger (vs. 1-3)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

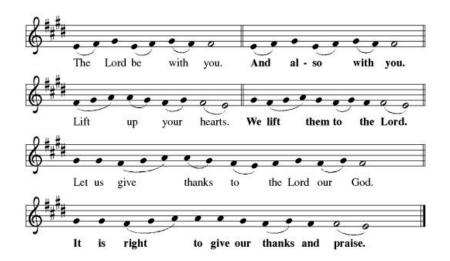
The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there. *Offertory: Angels We Have Heard on High (vs 3) Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Offering Prayer

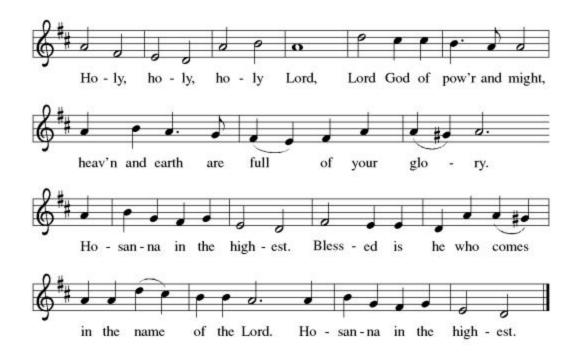
God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

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*Preface

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Page 153

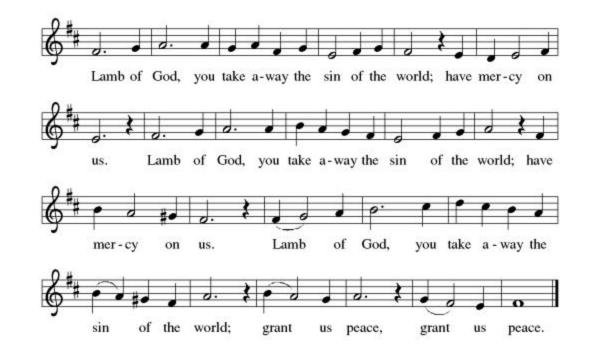


*Words of Institution

*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.

Distribution of Communion:



Distribution Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

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Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

*Communion Blessing

*Carol: Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

The Passing of the Light of Christ

The Good News of the Light: John 1:1-6

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

*Sending Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

As a sign of the light of Christ within each one of us, the ushers will move down the aisle with lit candles. Please hold the lit candle upright and tip the candle that is unlit.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

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!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**