

# CHRISTMAS EVE



1:30 PM

10:30 PM

*Musical Prelude at 10:00 PM*



TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE, MASON CITY, IA | 641-423-0536 | TRINITY-MC.ORG

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

1:30 pm and 10:30 pm

10:30 p.m. Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

### *The Word Became a Whisper*

On that first Christmas night, God spoke—not with thunder or power, but in the gentle cry of a newborn. In Jesus, the eternal Word became flesh, love took on a voice, and peace entered our world. This holy night invites us to listen again for God’s whisper of hope, peace, and grace for all people.

**Welcome to Trinity!** We are glad you’re here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an Welcome Card which can be found in the pews.

**We love having small children in worship!** Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. An **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (the door under the stained glass window ).

**Seating for People with Limited Mobility** is reserved in several places throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs.

**Large print bulletins and listening devices** are available from the ushers.

**Activity Bags** are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

## COLOR BULLETINS

given by

Paul and Mary Charlson (1:30pm Service)

Harlan and Marge Baack (10:30pm Service)  
*in honor of Trinity Staff and the Trinity Congregation*

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,  
on this Holy Christmas Eve we ask that you would awaken something new in us.  
Awaken in us a fire for your word.  
Awaken in us proof of your nearness.  
Awaken in us your love,  
which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath.  
We are listening.

**C Amen.**

*Please see Insert for the Special Music in this Service.*

*\* Indicates the assembly stands*

## **Litany** (*Inspired by Isaiah 9*)

- L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.
- C We long for a light to guide us.**
- L You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy.
- C We long for God's joy in our lives.**
- L For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- C We long to be relieved of all that we carry.**
- L For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- C His name is Emmanuel: God with us.**
- L In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,  
we find our light, our joy, our comfort.
- C Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

## **WORD**

### **Hebrews 1:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

- L The Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

## **\*John 1:1, 14**

P The Holy Gospel according to John the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon - Pastor Dan Gerriettes

Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

### \*Prayers

- P Gracious and Holy God, on this night we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign –Almighty and Everlasting. We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands. We praise you for the peace you have promised. Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, Immanuel, who lives among us each moment of our lives.
- P We pray for public officials, rulers and leaders in our own time. Give them wisdom, the will to do what is right, and the courage to work for peace in our communities and among the nations. Lord in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving our country here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality. Lord in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those who are dying; those who are cold; those who are lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty; and for all who struggle with addiction. Lord in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P We pray for families and friends: for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need your guidance this season; and for those in our memories who now dwell with you. Lord in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P We pray, O God, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness. Fill our homes with your love as we gather together to glorify you with the giving of gifts and the sharing of stories and the eating of delicious meals. Bless all children. And use our gatherings to bring us all closer to you and to one another. Lord in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P These and all our unspoken prayers we lift up to you, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.**

## MEAL

### Offering

*All designated Christmas offerings at Trinity this year will be shared evenly with Trinity Welfare Fund, Community Kitchen and ELCA World Hunger.*

*Designated offerings include those dollars that are received through member's Christmas offering envelope, the Christmas online giving tab, and any other gift marked "Christmas." Thank you for your generosity to these partner ministries!*

Text to Give is available at Trinity!

Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.

Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



### \*Offertory

#### *What Child Is This*

What child is this, who laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthem sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angel sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

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

### \*Offering Prayer

P 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.

C Amen.

## **\*Great Thanksgiving**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer 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...

**C** (tune: *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.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, 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.

## **\*Lord's Prayer**

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**



## Communion Distribution

*All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that come in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today.*

*You will receive a wafer and then proceed to dip the wafer into the wine.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available. Please ask your server.*

*Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front. You will return to your seat by the center aisle.*

*If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.*

## Communion Hymns

***O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Go Tell It on the Mountain***

ELW 279

ELW 290

## \*Prayer after Communion

P God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## \*Litany of Light

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**  
L Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.  
**C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**  
L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## \*Passing the Light 10:30 p.m.

*The ushers will light the candle of those nearest to the center aisle. Please pass the light to those sitting in the outside sections. Please dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor's to avoid dripping candle wax.*

**\*Hymn**

***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1    Silent night! Holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright,<br>Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace.<br>Sleep in heavenly peace, | 3    Silent night! Holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light,<br>Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,<br>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. |
| 2    Silent night! Holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight!<br>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br>Heavenly host sing alleluia,<br>Christ the Savior is born,<br>Christ the Savior is born. |  |

**\*Extinguishing Candles** 10:30 p.m.

- P    You may now extinguish your candles.  
      But take the light of Christ out into the world.

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

- P    God bless you and keep you,  
      ✙ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
      and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
      now and forever.

**C    Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

***Joy to the World***

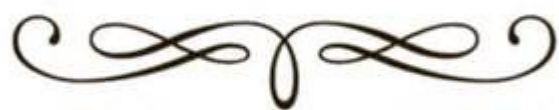
ELW 267

**\*Dismissal**

- P    Christ the Savior is born!  
      Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C    Thanks be to God**

**Postlude**





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