



### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

292 Orange St., New Haven, CT

TrinityLutheranNH.org – (203) 787-6521

Service of Holy Communion—*Lutheran Book of Worship*, Setting II

Christmas Eve—The Nativity of Our Lord, December 24, 2024

In-Person at 5:00 pm & Live at Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranNH

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

The angel said, "Fear not...Mary will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW No. 45****CHRISTMAS VERSES**

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

**He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*The infant Jesus being hailed by angels as the Christ recalls oracles such as this, which promise a coming king. Jesus is the "wonderful Counselor and mighty God" who is with us.*

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You 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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>His 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.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings the promise of salvation for all people. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION/ALLELUIA**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" of the Savior's birth and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup>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!"

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *"From Heaven Above"* **LBW No. 51, vs. 1-4, 13-14**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **HOMILY**

## **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;  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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**

## **THE PRAYERS**

D: In our prayers today and this week, please remember: [prayer list]. We also invite your own petitions either aloud or silently in your hearts.

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Mighty God, on this holy night the angels rejoiced in the birth of your only Son. Join our voices with the whole heavenly host, that we too might sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards all." Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, your Son came to give himself for us on the Cross, to redeem and purify us, and to make us zealous to do good. Renew our faith in Christ's self-giving love, and make your Church zealous to do good for others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, extend your peace to every nation of the world, and bring an end to all forms of violence here at home and abroad. Protect those who have answered the call to serve others in the military, or as first responders, and let your holy angels watch over them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Wonderful Counselor, you intercede for all and have mercy on all who call to you. Come to the help of all who are in need this night: the sick, the lonely, the abused, the brokenhearted, the needy, and all those we remember before you now. Comfort us all with good tidings of great joy--that you have come to be with us, and to shine the light of your face upon us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Emmanuel, God-with-us, you are with us always. Receive into your mighty keeping all those we mourn this season, and console us with the promise that Christ was born to save. We look joyfully towards the great day when we will be reunited together around your throne, joining shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph, and the whole heavenly host in praising you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord...

## **PEACE**

**OFFERING** *The ushers collect the offering. You can also give electronically through our website, Facebook page, or by [clicking here](#).*

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "Sing with Joy" arr. S. Drummond Wolf

**OFFERTORY:** "Let the Vineyards"

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Merciful Father,

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**THE COMMUNION** *To all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord, are baptized, and confess Jesus' real presence in the Holy Communion, we invite you to join us in the Holy Eucharist. At the usher's invitation you may come forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail. Please take an empty individual cup from the tray and bring it with you to the rail. The host wafer will be placed into your open hands to eat. Your cup will be filled from the pouring chalice, take and drink. Individual cups filled with non-alcoholic grape juice are also available, please point to receive one. Sealed pre-consecrated*

*Communion packages are also available. Please remain at the altar rail until all have finished and a blessing is given.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS: LBW Nos. 40, 58, 44, 67**

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** *"Lord, Now You Let"*

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CANDLELIGHT HYMN:** *"Silent Night, Holy Night!"* **LBW No. 65**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* **LBW No. 71**

D: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



*Christ is Born! Merry Christmas!*