

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Guide

Service of Holy Communion



“Fear Not. . . God is in Control”

December 26, 2021

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

+HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 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!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

SERMON "Fear Not: "God Is In Control"
Part 5 of a twelve-part sermon series
"Fear Not"

CHOIR ANTHEM

HYMN OF THE DAY The Bells of Christmas

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.

- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

+THE PRAYERS

(See "Celebrate" bulletin insert)

P: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God

C: receive our prayer.

P: You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer..

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever (*especially*). We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

(Offering baskets will not be passed around. At the conclusion of the service, please place your offering in designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

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 HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Lector: Marga Conn **Music Director:** Chad Flynn **Video:** Don Gulliksen

Did you know the twelve days of Christmas actually begin on Christmas day? That means Christmas is a season, not just one day. A very joyous Christmas season to you and to your loved ones!

Special thanks to our Music Director, Chad Flynn, our choir, and the guest vocalists from Jefferson Township High School for the wonderful Christmas cantata they offered on Dec. 19. We were all blessed and inspired.

Can You Donate a New or Lightly Used Twin Sized Blanket (60"X90") to aid the homeless? Simply drop off the blankets in an area designated for such at our glass enclosed vestibule. For more info: Contact Nisha Zoeller at: nishazoeller@gmail.com This is a Girl Scout Troop 6114 project.

Coffee Hour help needed. Many say we have the best post-worship coffee hours in Morris County! But your help is needed. Please consider donating refreshments, coffee, milk, sugar to help feed the multitude. Thank you!

Volunteers are needed to count the offering after church on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Joan Cosgrove at (973-691-1705) or speak to her in church. No experience necessary!

Lectors (readers on Sunday mornings) are needed and appreciated. Read the assigned Scripture for the day! Sign up sheets are located in the rear of the sanctuary, or ask Pastor Jack for details: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Food Collections. Please note: Please donate only NON-PERISHABLE food items. Do not drop off milk, bread, or various dairy products as these items may spoil prior to public distribution.

Did you know...approximately two hundred viewers "tune in" each week through our internet streaming of the worship experience. We are reaching viewers as far as Texas, Florida, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Maine and now China! Thanks to modern technology we are living out Jesus' great commission to proclaim God's Word near and far (see Matthew 28).

All liturgical wording for our worship services comes from the national office of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and is the standard recommended Lutheran liturgy for all Lutheran congregations across the United States.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again January 5. This popular series meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the choir room. Join us at noon...bring a bag lunch. Physical distancing and facial coverings will be mandatory. For those unable or uncomfortable attending in person, the Bible study will be live streamed through the ZOOM format. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Clothing Donations: Please DO NOT drop off clothing at our church vestibule or lobby area. Instead, please place all donated articles in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens are accepted as well! For more information, contact Ellen Crane at 973-625-1353.

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the "donate" button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Still not sure? Please contact Donna Gulliksen at: Donna.Gulliksen@gmail.com or call her at 973-697-1895. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 26 – Worship at 11:00am. No Sunday School

Tues., Dec. 28 – Church Council – 7:00pm

Wed., Jan. 5 – Lunch & Learn - noon

New Sermon Series

“Fear Not!”

What circumstances cause you to shiver in fear? What keeps you up at night? Do fears and anxieties overwhelm you at times? Join Pastor Jack as he explores the themes of fear...and faith... as outlined in our assigned Scripture texts each week.



11/28/21	“Fear Not...We Have Jesus”
12/5	“Fear Not...We are All in this Together”
12/12	“Fear Not...We Have Prayer Support”
12/19	“Fear Not...God Can Do Anything”
12/24	“Fear Not...A Savior is Born”
12/26	“Fear Not...God is in Control”
1/2/22	“Fear Not... It’s a New Year...a New Beginning”
1/9	“Fear Not...Your Baptism is Powerful”
1/16	“Fear Not...Our Lord Brings Joy”
1/23	“Fear Not...The Scriptures Are Fulfilled”
1/30	“Fear Not...Your Enemies Shall Not Prevail”
2/6	“Fear Not...God Will Provide”

This twelve-part sermon series will help to assuage some of your greatest fears and assure you that God will strengthen you... and guide you through...even amid the most frightening times of life.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Music Director: Chad Flynn, bariflynn@yahoo.com

Council President: Joan Cosgrove, kikkired@verizon.net

Sunday School Director: Erin Osterhout, eosterhout@optonline.net

Women's Group President: Marga Conn, tantemarga@outlook.com

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00am – Noon