

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

December 25, 2022

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

+HYMN

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

#45

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him
born the king of angels:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in
flesh appearing! *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Jesus Christ is the Word from God who became flesh and
blood and dwelt among us.

**C: God of beginning, God who sends life, God who names us
your children, we have gathered here to worship you.**

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human
nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace
adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C: Amen.

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.

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

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

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

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels 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!

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-14

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 overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

SERMON**HYMN: “Away in a Manger”****#277**

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

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the
right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen

THE OFFERING

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God,
you came to us as one unknown,
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table,
that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

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

CHRISTMAS BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son *f*, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

#267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n and nature sing and heav'n ,and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today 12/25)

Lector: *Volunteer* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*

Usher: *Ellen Crane & Marga Conn*

Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove* **Altar Guild:** *Joan Cosgrove*

CPIC: *Ellen Crane* **Counters:** *Joan Cosgrove & Matt Maitilasso*

Offering: *Lisa Bischer & Shannon Leifken*

Serving Next Week (1/1)

Lector: *Carol Schutz* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*

Usher: *Ellen Crane & Marga Conn*

Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove* **Altar Guild:** *Joan Cosgrove*

CPIC: *Ellen Crane* **Counters:** *Joan Cosgrove & Matt Maitilasso*

Offering: *Lisa Bischer & Shannon Leifken*

Holy Trinity wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

Special thanks to the following musicians who are providing wonderful music for us:

Christmas Day - Jennifer Foose and Barbara Selland

Want to use our church building for your group or organization? Please submit your request(s) to our Congregation Council in writing or in email form to our President Joan Cosgrove at least one month in advance of intended building usage. Joan's email is: kikkired@verizon.net Groups are required to complete a Building Usage Agreement form and provide proof of liability insurance coverage listing Holy Trinity as "additionally insured".

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered in person and via ZOOM conferencing on January 4 at noon. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Did you know that Congregation Council meetings are open to the general public? Non-Council visitors may have voice, but not vote as per our Constitution. Come see what your leaders are up to lately! The meetings are conducted monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the choir room.

Communion Note: The communion trays are configured in a certain way. Cups containing grape juice are in the center of the tray, and cups containing wine are near the edges of each serving tray.

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

RISE UP is collecting toiletries to aid our locals. Did you know that food stamps do not cover basic toiletry items like soap and shampoo? Please donate items in the special bin located in our church vestibule. For more information, contact Angela Bloshuk at 973-476-0101 or email her at: riseupangela@gmail.com

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. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Collections Update-

Winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are now being collected.

For more information of these various clothing collections please contact Ellen Crane (973-625-1353).

Please note: Any clothing other than sweaters and flannel shirts should be deposited in our outside red clothing bin, located in the rear parking lot.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside our front entrance vestibule. **Please do not donate perishable goods, such as milk, eggs, bread, and cheese.**