

# **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Guide**

## **Service of Holy Communion**



**December 20, 2020**

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

## WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Al Buechler

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

## + CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

C: **Amen.**

- P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord  
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

- P: God of all time,

C: **we confess that we have not prepared  
for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need  
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

- P: Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven  
and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!
- C: **Amen.**

## **+HYMN      O Little Town of Bethlehem**

- 1    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.
  
- 3    How silently, how silently  
     the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
     So God imparts to human hearts  
     the blessings of his heav'n.  
     No ear may hear his coming;  
     but, in this world of sin,  
     where meek souls will receive him, still  
     the dear Christ enters in.

## **SALUTATION**

P:      The Lord be with you.

C:      **And also with you.**

## **+ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the

obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## **Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**SERMON** "What Does It Mean for Us?"

## **QUIET TIME FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ♪ **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## **+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 Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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**

*(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.)*

P: Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**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 in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(At the invitation of the pastor, please open your communion kit and consume the host and grape juice)*

### **+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

### **+ BENEDICTION**

## **+ SENDING      Joy to the World**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her 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.
- 2 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DISMISSAL**

- P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Weekly Announcements

**Lector:** Al Buechler   **Music Director:** Chad Flynn   **Video:** Don Gulliksen

**Lighting Our Advent Candles today:** Al Buechler

**Special Thanks** to all who helped to decorate our sanctuary for the holiday season.

**Santa Claus is coming to town!** He will visit our church on December 20 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Free pictures with Santa on our driveway. (See bulletin flyer for details).

**Help is Needed to move some chairs from the choir room to a vacant Sunday School room.** If you can help, please remain after worship for ten minutes on December 20.

**RISE UP, in conjunction with the Rockaway Food Closet, is prepared to offer free Christmas dinners to families in need.** Food will be delivered to individual residences. If you, or someone you know, is in need of this service, please confidentially, contact Pastor Jack at 908-887-1161.

**Christmas Eve Worship at Holy Trinity.** In response to NJ COVID state regulations regarding attendance capacity and physical distancing, the Holy Trinity Council voted unanimously to offer two worship services on Christmas Eve: 3:30pm and 5:00pm. State legislation mandates a maximum attendance of 60 people for each of these liturgies. An RSVP “sign-up sheet” was electronically emailed to you prior to Thanksgiving, and a hard-copy sign-up sheet is located in the rear of the sanctuary. Please sign up at either of these venues. Those who intend to worship “in person” will be granted first-come, first serve privileges for the sign up. Of course, the services will be offered live via the internet and archived for viewers to enjoy at any time. We regret any inconvenience this arrangement may pose for you or your family members, but we must be in compliance with CDC and state mandates during the pandemic.

**2021 Holy Trinity Wall Calendars** are available free of charge. Take a few home...they're available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

### **Some things you should know....**

- In many ways, our sanctuary set-up and physical-distancing protocols exceed CDC guidelines for safe public gatherings
- The air blowers which heat the sanctuary are turned off at least thirty minutes prior to worship and are never re-activated so as to avoid spraying breath aerosol into the environment when people are in the sanctuary
- We are currently reaching approximately 200 people on Sundays and throughout the week with our YouTube streamed worship



services. Viewers are connecting with us from several states, including, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, and the Carolinas

- Weekly Sunday School lessons are posted on our church's web page in addition to the weekly children's sermons
- Thermal-insulated curtains have been installed in one of our meeting rooms to save on energy costs
- Souvenir battery-powered candles will be given to all Christmas Eve attendees in order to avoid spraying breath aerosol when attempting to "blow out" traditional candles.
- All liturgical wording for our worship bulletins is obtained from the national office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- Pastor Jack has been appointed by the Bishop to serve as the Synod's Western Mission District Dean and Cluster Counselor. He will assist the Bishop in providing support to clergy and congregations in Morris, Sussex, and Warren County
- During the pandemic, community groups (other than Holy Trinity groups) have not been meeting inside our building

**Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup>.** 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 about the ZOOM link.

**Potholders are still offered for sale by our women's group.** These sturdy potholders are only \$10 for a set of two. Great Christmas gift idea. To purchase contact Joan Cosgrove or Ellen Crane.

**Clothing Donations:** Please place in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Also taking shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens!

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

# **Eight-Part Sermon Series**



## **“Heavenly Reflections”**

Join Pastor Jack as he explores the assigned ELCA Scripture texts which outline the Biblical concepts of Heaven, The Second Coming of Christ, Judgment Day, and our call to serve the Lord in anticipation of the end-times. Each sermon will be presented in the form of a question.

- 11/1 – “What is Heavenly Paradise?”
- 11/8 - “Now...or Later?”
- 11/15 - “What Should We DO?”
- 11/22- “What About Judgment Day?”
- 11/29- “How Can WE Remain Strong?”
- 12/6- “What’s He Waiting For?”
- 12/13- “HOW Can We Be Faithful?”
- 12/20- “What Does It All Mean for Us?”

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's 2020 Picture with Santa



## Drive-Thru!

December 13th & 20th 5-9 pm



Bring your loved ones to see and talk to Santa Claus from the  
comfort of your own car!

You will also receive a photo sent to your Email address.  
Come join us to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, safe and socially  
distant.

508 Green Pond Road Rockaway, NJ  
07866

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