

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Guide

Service of Holy Communion



January 3, 2021

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
✠ one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

+HYMN **O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON "What's New?"

QUIET TIME FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER

HYMN OF THE DAY ♪ **Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways**

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.

+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: God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,
help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name.

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: On this day, O God, you gave us
Christ the Son to save us.
As you sent the one foretold,
send us now with good news for all people.
Let the gladness of this feast have no end
as we share with others the joy that fills us;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

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

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

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

Special Thanks to Kurt and Shannon Leifken for working so hard to bring Santa to us on December 13 & 20. One hundred cars arrived during our Drive-By Santa events!

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
- 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 6th. 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. 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 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.