



# Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Come Together    Grow in Faith    Serve the Lord*

**December 24, 2023 5:00 PM – Christmas Eve**

*Family Service*



**Rev. Luther Zeigler, Pastor**

PastorLuther@htelc.com • office@htelc.com • (603) 436-1704 • htelc.com



**A Warm Welcome as you worship with us today!** Whether you are here for the first time or a long time member, know that you are welcomed in Christ's Name, joined to be with us, Christ's Body the Church, as we worship God.

**We love having children worship with us!** We invite parents or care givers to sit with their child(ren) around one of our children's worship tables where they can be a part of our service and engaging in quiet activities. Children's bulletins and activities are located on the tables inside the sanctuary. **Currently, our Nursery is not staffed.** You are welcome to accompany your own child at our Nursery, located near the kitchen.

**Follow us on Facebook and YouTube:** @HolyTrinityEvangelicalLutheranChurch

All Worship Services are livestreamed and available to watch on YouTube after the service ends.

*At Holy Trinity, we welcome and affirm everyone—because God welcomes and affirms everyone— regardless of age, race, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other life circumstance. You are welcome. Your family, children, friends, spouses, and partners are welcome. You are welcome, whether you are a believer, a doubter, or a seeker. Your diversity and uniqueness are welcomed and affirmed into the full life of Holy Trinity.*



***You are wanted here.***

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	
<b>Musician(s)</b>	Judy Evans
<b>Greeter(s)</b>	Meredith Goodwin
<b>Sound System</b>	Mark Donahue
<b>Liturgical Deacon</b>	Tom Bernth
<b>Ushers</b>	Kem Taylor & Ed Mallon

**Church Office Hours:** Sunday-Thursday 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

[facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch](https://facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch)

**Poinsettia's donated by:**

**In honor of or In memory of:**

Julie Anderson  
Martha and Rich Belanger  
Tom and Michelle Bernth  
Scott and Leslie Carson  
  
Margereta Claesson  
  
Jessica Feeley  
Meredith Goodwin  
Paul and Helen Goransson  
Paul and Jackie Karl  
Dot and Kurt Kasik  
  
Bud and Ida Klasner  
  
Billy and Jill Larson  
  
Lois Laurence  
Tina and John Maiorino  
Ed and Fran Mallon  
  
Scott and Rani Marcus  
  
The Monareh Family  
  
Julie Moore  
  
Lena Olsson  
The Parseghian Family  
Bonnie and Larry Sanders  
Dave and Betty Smith

In memory of Donald Anderson.  
In memory of Martha's Parents: Elmer & Florence Klopp  
In memory of Christina Bernth & Tom Willis  
In memory of Grace and George Carson  
In memory of my parents: Astrid & Nils Kjallstrom and sister:  
Ulla-Britt Johansson, and Barbro Bohl.  
In memory of Stephen O'Shoughnessy  
In honor of my mother Dorothy Mae  
In memory of Helen Sewell  
In memory of loved ones  
In honor of family & In Memory of Joe Lugalla  
In honor of Doug & Mavis Day and In memory of Robert &  
Dorothy Klasner  
In memory of Thomas and Adelaide Olsen, & Bill and Florance  
Larson.  
In memory of loved ones  
In memory of Linda Sunderland  
In memory of our parents  
In memory of Elsa Marcus (Scott's Mom), and Augustine Sanger  
(Rani's mom).  
In honor of Monareh-Tirie family, Kairupan-Monareh family, &  
Soeun family. In memory of Hans Tirie & Meity Najoan.  
In honor or Barry and Phyllis Philbrick, for all you do for Holy  
Trinity  
In memory of Gisela Wemple & Judy Degroney  
In memory of our son, Brian  
In honor of Paul Wright, our deceased brother-in-law.  
In memory of Elsie and George Busick and In Honor of Isaac &  
Anne Smith.



**Thank you to all who donated  
Christmas Poinsettias this year.**

**Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Sunday, December 24, 2023 — 5:00 p.m.*  
**Christmas Eve Family Worship**

## **Prelude Music**

## **Welcome**

## **Call to Worship**

— Please stand as able—

P: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking truth,

**C: There is room here for you.**

P: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

**C: There is a seat here for you.**

P: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

**C: These candles are here for you.**

P: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,

**C: There is a melody here for you.**

P: Come in. You are in God's house.

Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.

**C: Let us worship the God of love.**

## **Christmas Eve Prayer**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:

*Refrain*

*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christmas Candle

All kids are welcome to come forward when invited.

## First Lesson

L: A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

<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.

L: Word of God, word of life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**ELW 279**

**— Please stand as able—**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## Psalmody: Psalm 96

L: <sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: <sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

L: <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**C: <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**

L: <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

**C: <sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

L: <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**C: <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

L: <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

**C: <sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."**



L: <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**C: <sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it.**

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

L: <sup>13</sup>before the LORD; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

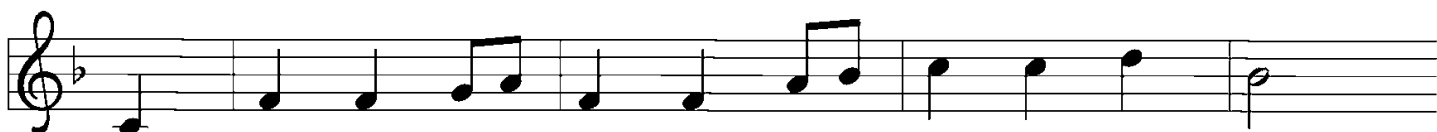
## Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

## The Christmas Gospel, Part 1

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2:1-7

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: <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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Hymn

ELW 270 vs 1-2 — Please stand as able—

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## The Christmas Gospel, Part 2

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2:8-20

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: <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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Christmas Message

A short homily for children and adults of all ages

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Prayers of Intercession

LD: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

— A brief silence—

LD: Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. We pray especially for those whose names we say out loud or silently. — A brief silence— Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the New England Synod, and their leaders. We also pray for all of our partners in mission and ministry, locally and abroad. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

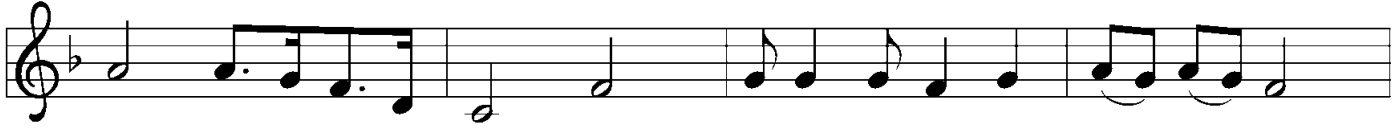
**C: Your mercy is great.**

LD: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**C: Amen.**



## Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Now as our Lord has taught us, we are bold to pray.

**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.**

## Celebration of Light (*Candle-lighting ceremony*)

Pastor will take the light from the Christ candle to share with the ushers who will assist in passing the light through the sanctuary. Individual candles will be lit by tipping only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit. Worshipers are cautioned not to tip burning candles, lest hot wax spill. Adults are asked to assist and help children.

P: The Grace of God has come to us and touches our lives.

**C: Jesus our Savior is born!**

P: Praise the Lord with heart filled joy!

**C: We praise the Lord, for the Word has come to dwell with us.**

P: The light of Christ shines across the ages even into our world and our hearts this night.

**C: God loves us.**

P: Jesus is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Silent Night, Holy Night!  
*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Blessing

—Please remain standing—

Pastor Luther will lead our congregation with a Blessing.

## Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Share the light of Christmas.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

***Please carefully extinguish the individual candles  
and return them to a basket in the narthex.***

**As you depart, go renewed in God's promise in Christ for you. Be safe in your travels! May this Christmas season offer you peace!**

Please return to join us for worship in-person or online: **Sundays at 9:30 AM.**

**Church Office Hours:** Sunday-Thursday 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

(603) 436-1704    office@htelc.com

facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44656. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved..