

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Carols and Holy Communion



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
East Berlin, Pennsylvania
December 24, 2022
10:15p.m.**

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ with us tonight! Whether you are a regular worshiper, a first-time guest, a new resident, or just visiting, we're glad you are with us.

We, at Trinity, are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and our neighbors. Together we Worship, Serve and Celebrate! We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and everyone is welcome in this community of faith.

Our church is filled with people from all walks of life and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have many active ministries and programs, to include:

- worship Sundays & Wednesdays, both in-person and online
- faith formation opportunities, such as Sunday School for all ages (10:30 am) & Bible study on Mondays at 6:00 pm via Zoom.
- musical programs such as adult and children's choirs & handbells
- youth programs such as Teen Time bible study & activities
- social ministries such as Laundry Love, hosting the Food Pantry each month, and our Sharing Shelf for immediate needs
- mission trips to help others in need, both locally and afar
- fellowship events include an annual church picnic, Penny Carnival, ice cream social, Gingerbread House Workshop, coffee hours, and lots more!
- Please submit your contact info, especially email address, to be included in any future activities to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org
- **YOU REALLY ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Worship: Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, 10:00a.m.

Office Phone: 717-259-9125

www.TrinityLutheranEB.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:45am – 11:45am, Friday 9am-1pm

Christmas Prelude Recital (begins at 10:00pm)

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Johann Pachelbel

“Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Craig Curry

Trinity Ringers: *“The Holly and the Ivy”*

Kevin McChesney

“Still, Still, Still”

Tammy Waldrop

“Greensleeves”

Michael Bedford

Adult Choir: *“On this Silent Night, Holy Night”* Mary & Hope McDonald

**Please stand as you are able.*

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

Read by Bob Aims, Bell Toll by Luke McCarthy

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Text: Traditional, adapt. Brian T. Johnson. From sundaysandseasons.com.
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***OPENING HYMN**

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283

Bells by Luke McCarthy



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,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



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!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



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:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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!

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

C **And also with you**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you

P Let us pray...

C 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

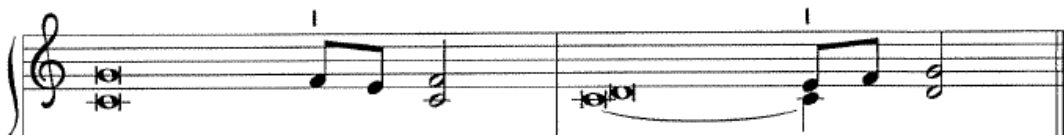
⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 (*Sung using Tone 6*)



¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a-¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a-¹ mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised,
more to be feared¹ than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon-¹ or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo-¹ ples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that
¹ is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-¹ ing, O
LORD, for you come to¹ judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the ^l world with righteousness
and the peoples ^l with your truth.

SECOND LESSON – Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

***HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Susan J. McCarthy



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,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



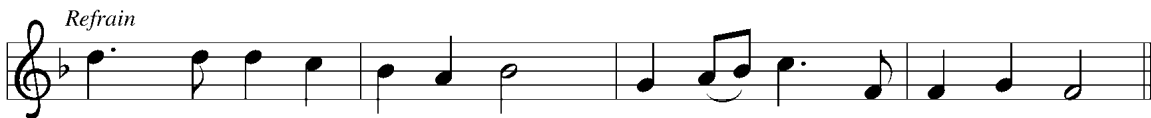
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

***NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
Father. Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

**By the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us tonight. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation and guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect the young and old, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, shelter refugees and those with no home, attend the dying, and relieve any who cry out. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving,

especially those we name before you now, *pause*, and those on our prayer list. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for all the saints of every time and place. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of the incarnate Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Christ Is Born in Bethlehem* Williams/Lantz III

OFFERING

We give and receive in relationship with God and with one another. Thank you for your gifts to the Body of Christ at Trinity! Your partnership in the gospel is needed and necessary. Merry Christmas!

Please stand.



***OFFERTORY CAROL**

“What Child Is This?”

ELW 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray...

**C God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your
table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the
abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the
Word made flesh. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you**

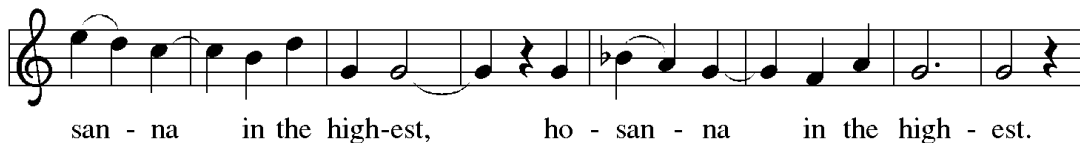
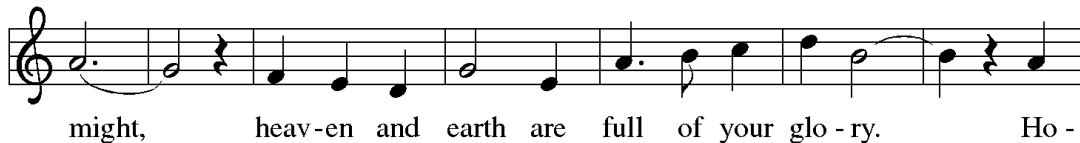
P Lift up your hearts.

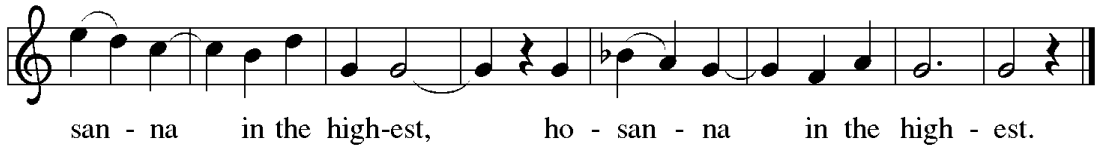
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy God, Creator of All and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored by him.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.**



***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Thanks be to God!

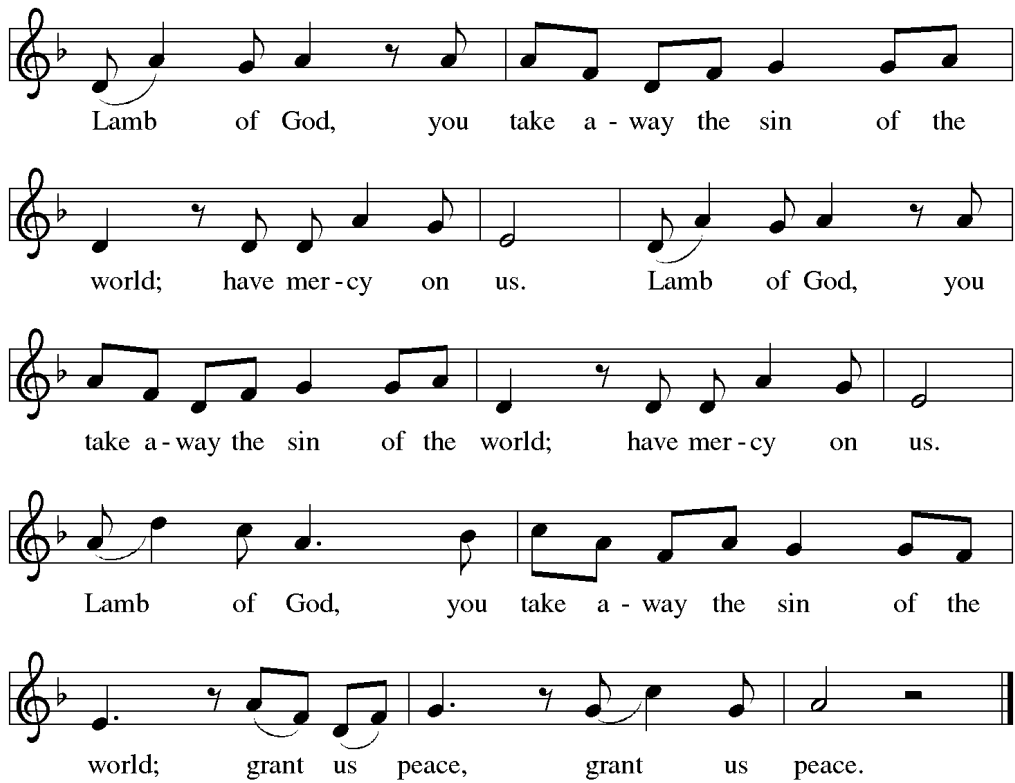
Please be seated as we approach the altar for holy communion, rising to go forward from the front of the sanctuary to the rear.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We are all invited to the Lord's Table; please make yourself at home. The pastor will offer direction for the distribution of the sacrament. Please note the following elements are available in addition to bread and wine: gluten-free wafers & pre-blessed, sealed wafer and grape juice packages.

CAROLS DURING HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is invited to sing during the distribution of Holy Communion. The hymns begin with:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" ELW 290

"In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW 279



***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our incarnate Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

C **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



LIGHTING OF CANDLES

The sharing of the candlelight represents the spread of the Good News of Jesus as we disciples are called to share the Light of Christ with one another and the world. “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven,” we hear in our Baptism service.

Please keep the candles upright to avoid dripping wax. As the candles are lighted the following scripture will be read responsively. For the smallest among us, or those who simply prefer, there are battery candles available. Feel free to take your battery candle home as a Christmas gift – the Light of Christ!

DIALOGUE – A Responsive Reading from Isaiah Chapter 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

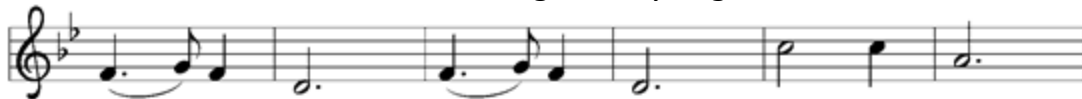
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Please keep your candles lit as we sing together “Silent Night, Holy Night.”



CLOSING HYMN*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

ELW 281



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,



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,



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



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***DISMISSAL**

A Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*“Hark the Herald, Angels Sing”*

Neil Harmon

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! We hope that you will join us again for worship on Sunday at 9am. Our services may be found on Facebook or on YouTube by searching, “Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin,” or check out our website at www.trinitylutheraneb.org. Please complete a yellow/green visitor slip found in your row or you can submit your contact information to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org to be invited to all our digital and in-person activities. **Merry Christmas!**

Sun. 12/25 @ 9:00 a.m.—A Festival of Lessons and Carols. We’ll gather Sunday morning to continue the Christmas celebration with scripture, singing and Holy Communion. Come in your PJs and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

Bible Study will not be held December 26 or January 2 but will resume on Monday, January 9.

2023 Offering Envelopes: The company who provides Trinity's giving envelopes is experiencing great difficulties in getting the orders out by the end of the year. They will be placed in the Narthex as soon as they arrive.

2023 Calendars given to Trinity by Feiser’s Funeral Home are available at all the entrances. Please take as many as you like! They are located around the church.

2023 Church Directory will be published and distributed in January. If you have any changes to your address, phone number(s) or email address, please notify Jen in the church office by January 3, 2023.

Church Office Closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

Assisting in the Service this evening:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Presiding Minister | <i>Rev. Susan J. McCarthy</i> |
| Organist & Music Director | <i>Karen Wire</i> |
| Assisting Minister | <i>Bob King</i> |
| Lector | <i>Dona Lerew</i> |
| Hymn Leader | <i>Becky Rinehart</i> |
| Proclamation | <i>Bob Aims</i> |
| Communion Assistant | <i>Ruthann Bowen</i> |
| Bell Accompaniment | <i>Luke McCarthy</i> |
| Altar Guild | <i>Anita Madsen</i> |
| Ushers | <i>Rick & Anita Madsen</i> <i>Ruthann Bowen, Mark Boyer</i> |

