

# Trinity English Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service



December 24, 2024  
5:30PM

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,

when ages beyond number had run their course  
from the creation of the world,

when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,  
and formed humans in God's own likeness;

when century upon century had passed  
since the Almighty set the bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,  
as a sign of covenant and peace;

in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our forbearer in faith,  
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;

in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses  
in the Exodus from Egypt;

around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;

in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two  
since the foundation of the City of Rome;

in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,  
the whole world being at peace,

**JESUS CHRIST**, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to consecrate the world by God's most loving presence,

was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and when nine months had passed since his conception,  
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,  
and was made human:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

*The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Roman Martyrology*

# TRINITY ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

ELW—Evangelical Lutheran Worship

**P**—Pastor **C**—Congregation **L**—Leader

All children are invited to participate in our “Christmas Pageant In A Bag.” If your child would like to participate and has not already done so, please go to the gathering area to receive a costume. Also, please make sure everyone who would like one has a bell to ring during the service.

Please ring bells only at the times indicated in the bulletin.

PRELUDE: 3 Settings of “From Heaven Above” .....Johann Pachelbell, Ernst Pepping, Paul Manz

Please stand.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 283, “O Come, All Ye Faithful” .....ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Jes - us, to thee be glo - ry giv'n!



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



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880  
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS, attr. John Francis Wade

## GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 289, "Angels We Have Heard on High" .....GLORIA *Ring bells on "Gloria."*

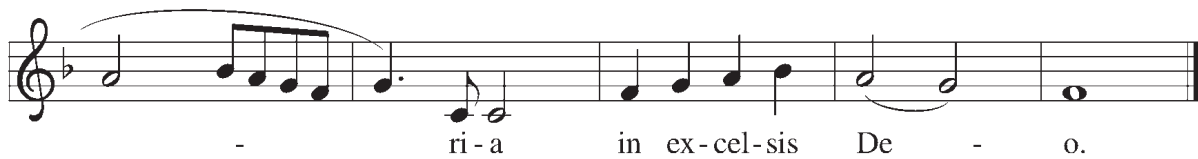
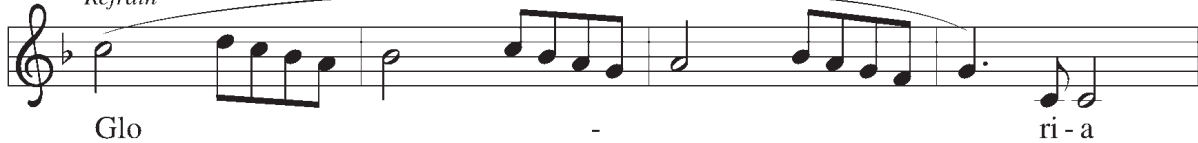


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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*



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**G** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING.....Isaiah 9:2-7**

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

**P** The word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*During the hymn, children put on their costumes from the blue bags.*

HYMN: ELW 268, "From Heaven Above".....VOM HIMMEL HOCH



Choir 1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
 Choir 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
 Choir 3 "These are the signs that you will see to let you  
 All 4 Now let us all with joy - ful cheer go with the



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly  
 know that it is he: in man - ger - bed, in swad - dling  
 shep - herds and draw near to see this won - drous gift of



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 clothes the child who all the earth up - holds."  
 God, the bles - sed child to us be - stowed.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539  
 Text ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

**P** The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

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.

*All sing:*

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.

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.

*The Star goes to the front of the church and stands by the pulpit,  
then Mary and Joseph walk to the front and stand behind the manger.*

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*All animals except the sheep go to stand with Mary and Joseph.*

*During the hymn, the angels, shepherds, and sheep meet in the middle of the Nave.*

*All sing:*

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

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
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.

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!"

*Angels all shout, "Jesus is born!" then walk up front to stand with everyone around Jesus.*

*All sing:*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

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.

*Shepherds and Sheep join Mary and Joseph.*

*All sing:*

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!



Why lies he in such mean estate  
 where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
 the silent Word is pleading.  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
 the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
 the babe, the son of Mary!

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.

- P** The gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*During the hymn, the children return to their seats, remove their costumes,  
 and return them to the gathering area following the service.*

**HYMN: ELW 268, "From Heaven Above".....VOM HIMMEL HOCH**



5 Look, look, dear friends, look o - ver there! What lies with -  
 6 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, through whom this  
 7 O Lord, you have cre - at - ed all! How did you  
 8 For vel - vets soft and silk - en stuff you have but



in that man - ger bare? Who is that love - ly li - ttle  
 sin - ful world is blest! You turned not from our needs a -  
 come to be so small, to sweet - ly sleep in man - ger -  
 hay and straw so rough on which as king so rich and



one? The ba - by Je - sus, God's dear Son.  
 way; how can our thanks such love re - pay?  
 bed where low - ing cat - tle late - ly fed?  
 great to be en - throned in hum - ble state.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539  
 Text ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 268, "From Heaven Above".....VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Ring bells on last stanza.



9 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a  
10 My heart for ver - y joy now leaps; my voice no  
11 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



heart, that you and I may nev - er part.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539  
Text ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- ☐ Lord in your mercy,
- ☑ hear our prayer.

PEACE

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ And also with you.

People greet each other saying: "Peace be with you."

OFFERING

All of the work of Trinity is possible because of the prayers, service and offerings of the people of Trinity. If you would like to leave an offering, you may use an envelope and leave an offering in one of the black boxes at an entrance. You may also use a credit card or give an offering through PayPal at [TrinityEnglish.org/give](http://TrinityEnglish.org/give). Scanning the QR code will take you to the site. Thank you for your support!



*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P** Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among us to be with us always. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
- C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** Holy One, we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

Jesus is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, Holy Trinity, both now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
- ☑ 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.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All who are baptized are welcome to receive the real presence of Christ in this sacrament.  
Bread is received in the hands and dipped in the cup of wine or grape juice.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God



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.

ELW 286, "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord".....HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*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,

*Hol - der 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

Please stand.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. Radiant God, in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.

May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

**C** Amen.

**P** Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

May his birth among us renew your hope.

**C** Amen.

**P** Jesus is the Prince of Peace,

May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 267, "Joy to the World".....ANTIOCH

Ring bells on Stanza 3



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 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  
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  
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.  
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

DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "In Dulci Jubilo," BWV 729.....J. S. Bach

*Please return bells to the receptacles at each nave exit.*

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+ PARTICIPANTS +

Our appreciation and thanks to those serving in God's house today:

- + Pastor Erdos, Preacher
- + Pastor Zandstra, Celebrant
- + Deacon Mary Lasits, Intercessor
- + Daniel Schwandt, Organist
- + Emily Bird, Soloist
- + Henry Hill, Madison Snyder, Ellie Waggoner; Communion Assistants
- + Meghan Dohring, Narrator
- + Amanda Debow, Amy Henderson-Hill, Sarah Snyder; Readers
- + Special thanks to today's Ushers, Altar Guild, Video and Audio Production Crew.

**ALTAR FLOWERS IN THE NAVE:** The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God. In loving memory of husband Dennis and parents Jack Emley and Don and Virginia Bohnke and grandmother Hannah Karsten by Donna Emley. In loving memory of Charlotte and Louis Andrews by their daughter Karen Gilliatt. In loving memory of Evelyn and Richard Salisbury by Diana Salisbury and Judith (Salisbury) Buelow. In memory of parents, Max G. and Virginia Irmischer and Glen and Edna Archbold by Mox and Lisa Irmischer.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Sharon Gerig, Jenny Hobby and Family, Shari, Connie, Becky, Brooks, Kathy, Bruce, Chris Bickel.

## **NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Thursday, December 26th- NO 7pm service

Sunday, December 29th-First Sunday of Christmas - 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

For more information about the ministry of Trinity English Lutheran Church,  
please visit [www.TrinityEnglish.org](http://www.TrinityEnglish.org)

**YOUR PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL**

The Rev. Dr. Gary M. Erdos, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Lee A. Zandstra, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Jeremy G. Russell, Visitation Pastor  
Mary E. Lasits, Deacon

+ + +

Robert A. Hobby, Director of Music  
Daniel E. Schwandt, Associate Director of Music  
Emily K. Bird, Director of Children's Music  
Rebecca L. Karcher, Director of Communication  
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Karen L. Moore, Accounting Assistant  
The Rev. Dr. Frederick E. Hasecke, Senior Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. Dr. Kathleen W. Haller, Associate Pastor Emeritus

+ + +

Karen L. Anderson—Chile  
ELCA Missionary Partner Supported by Trinity English



**Trinity English**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Working together to change  
the world through Jesus*

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