

A Midweek Devotional

ADVENT

December 6, 2023



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the **STARS** in the
SKY looked down



**An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent
Devotional**



Historic
TRINITY
since 1850
DETROIT
America's Lutheran Cathedral

1345 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48207
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historictrinity.org

Historic Trinity

Lutheran Church

The Stars in the Sky Look Down

An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional

Service Two: Star of Hope

December 6, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Today we will see the birthplace of Christ in a whole new way. We will learn more about the little town where Jesus was born so long ago, and what Jesus, who is the Bright Star of Bethlehem, reveals to us. Today, Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be the Star of Hope to a people long forsaken. The fears of all the years are washed away by the hope of salvation through this Infant King.

PRELUDE @12pm

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Paul Manz

CAROLING @6:30pm

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Now Sing We Now Rejoice”

LSB 386 v. 1, 3-4



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man-ger lies;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: 🎵 Amen.

WAITING WITH HOPE...

Pastor: The Lord is not only our hope but He fills our lives with hope. As we search God's Word it is a blessing not only to hear those words but also speak them and believe them. We come together proclaiming that Jesus Christ is our hope. *based on 1 Timothy 1:1*

People: **Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.** *Psalm 42:5*

Pastor: Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. *Psalm 62:5*

People: **May those who fear You rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in Your Word.** *Psalm 119:74*

Pastor: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

People: **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** *Jeremiah 29:11*

Pastor: ...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given. *Romans 5:3-5*

People: **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.** *Rom 12:12*

Pastor: For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. *Romans 15:4*

People: **If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.** *1 Corinthians 15:19*

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Ro15:13*

People: **Jesus Christ is our hope.**

Pastor: This is the faith-producing, faith-strengthening, and hope-filled Word of the Lord!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Lord of Hope,

People: Because of our sin, we too often live in hopelessness. We get caught up in the brokenness, heartache and pain of this current world. Lead us to see how you brought hope into our hopelessness when you brought light into our darkness. Shine your bright star of hope into our lives and make us new by your grace. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the Good News: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He is the Bright Star of Bethlehem. He was born to save us. He shattered the darkness of our sin, bringing hope to the world through his sacrifice on the cross. Now you can live in this sure and certain hope: All of your sins are forgiven through Christ! As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 386 v. 2

♪ **Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

(The Child of Hope)

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone...

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 15:8-13

(The Hope of the World)

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰ And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹² And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"
"Gaudete"

St. John Lutheran School, Rochester

GOSPEL

Matthew 12:15-21

(In Him, we hope...)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Twelfth Chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸ "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"

♪ God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r, when we had gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavenly Father, A bless-ed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name. *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface. *Refrain*

HOMILY

“Great Expectations”

1 Peter 3:15

*Vicar Adam Hiles, Pastoral Student
Historic Trinity, Detroit; St. Paul, Royal Oak*

OFFERTORY THEME

“Away in a Manger”

LSB 364 v. 1, 3

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please consider continuing to support the work of the Lord at Historic Trinity with a sacrificial gift.

You can donate at historictrinity.org/give, or mail to 1345 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207.



VOLUNTARY @12pm
@6:30pm

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

*J. Wayne Kerr
Vincent Lübeck*

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

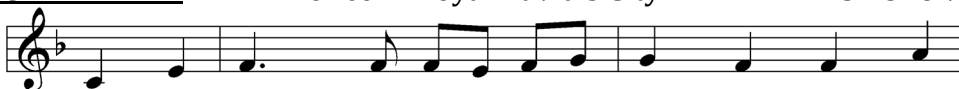
Pastor: Go now and shine like stars in the sky, bringing the light of Christ to the world. And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376 v. 1-2, 4-5



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

POSTLUDE @12pm
@6:30pm

“Once in Royal David’s City”
“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

Ryan Meyer
Aaron Shows