

*A Midweek Devotional*

**ADVENT**

December 13, 2023



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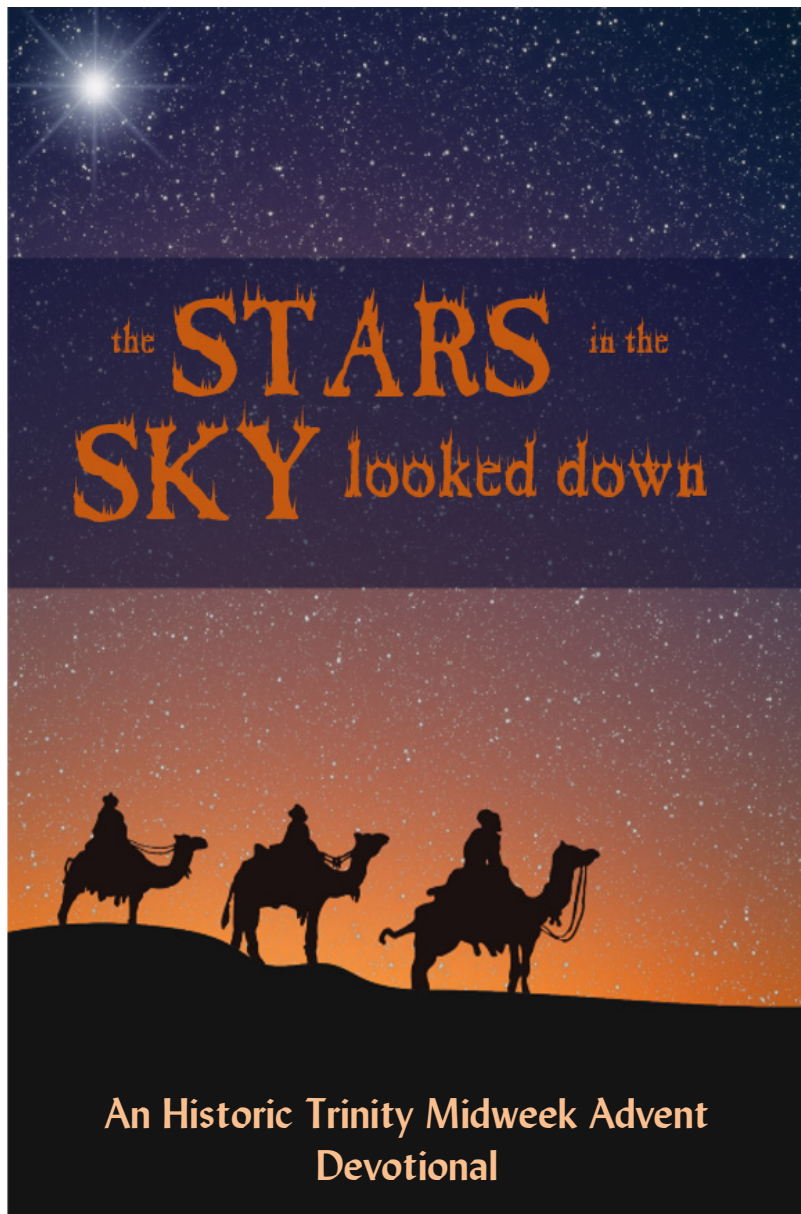
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**An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent  
Devotional**



Historic  
**TRINITY**  
since 1850  
**DETROIT**  
America's Lutheran Cathedral

1345 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48207  
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# Historic Trinity

Lutheran Church

## The Stars in the Sky Look Down

*An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional*

### Service Three: Star of Joy

December 13, 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 enlighten the world as the Star of Joy. The great glad tidings He tells bring smiles to our faces, and good gifts that move us to repeat the sounding joy.

#### PRELUDE @12pm

“Vom Himmel hoch”

*Wilbur Held*

#### CAROLING @6:30pm

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

LSB 358 v. 1-2, 8



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**People:**  Amen.

## WAITING WITH JOY

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

**People:** **The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."** *Luke 2:10-11*

**Pastor:** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2*

**Reader:** **Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!**

**Pastor:** The Lord has taken away your punishment; He has turned back your enemy. *Zeph. 3:14-15a*

**People:** **The Lord, your God, is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.** *Zephaniah 3:17*

**Pastor:** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you righteous and having salvation. *Zechariah 9:9*

**People:** **Jesus said, "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."** *John 16:22*

**Pastor:** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! *Philippians 4:4*

**People:** **Jesus said, "I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."** *John 15:11*

**Pastor:** Be joyful always! *2 Thessalonians 5:16*

**People:** **Jesus Christ is our joy!**


**Pastor:** This is the faith-producing, faith-strengthening, and joyful Word of the Lord!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Lord of Joy,

**People:** **When you were born among us, you brought joy to the world. But we confess before you that we choose joylessness sin. In our sinfulness, we often see only the downside, the dysfunctional and the disastrous. Forgive us, O Lord, and renew our joy that we may rejoice in your goodness and grace all of our days. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He is the Bright Star of Bethlehem. With gladness I declare to you that you are forgiven completely because of Christ. Rejoice now! Rejoice always! 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 358 v. 14-15

 **My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

### OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-3

*(The Spirit of the Lord brings joy)*

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 4:4-9

*(Find joy always)*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

“Brighter than Snow”

*Ruth Elaine Schram*

“Away in a Manger”

*J. R. Murray & Wm Kirkpatrick*

*Setting by Jeffrey Blersch*

*Immanuel Lutheran School Fourth Grade Choir*

### GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

*(A leap for joy)*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,<sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN

### “How Great Our Joy”



1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad ti - dings  
2. There shall be born, so he did say, In Beth - le -  
3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who  
4. This gift of God we'll che - rish well, That e - ver



brought an an - gel bright;  
hem a Child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!  
shall re - deem us all.  
joy our heart shall fill.



Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in



heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

## HOMILY @12pm

### “From Anxiety to Adoration”

Luke 1:39-56

*Rev. Doug Bender, Associate Pastor*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Macomb*

@6:30pm

### “Star of Joy”

Luke 1:44-45

*Rev. Alan Eisinger, Cathedral Pastor*

*Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

## OFFERTORY THEME

### “Away in a Manger”

LSB 365 v. 1, 3

♪ **Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven 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](http://historictrinity.org/give), or mail to 1345 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207.



**VOLUNTARY** @12pm

“Quem Pastores”

Paul Manz

@6:30pm “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

Helmut Walcha

## 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 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” LSB 375 v. 1, 5-6



1 Come, your hearts and voices rais - ing, Christ the  
5 Oh, the joy be - yond ex - press - ing When by  
6 Gra - cious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
faith we grasp this bless - ing, And to You we come con -  
low - ly man - ger cheer us, Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
fess - ing That Your love has set us free.  
near us Till we join Your choir a - bove.

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**POSTLUDE** @12pm

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Wilbur Held

@6:30pm

“From Heaven Above, BWV 606”

J. S. Bach