

The Festival of the
NATIVITY

December 25, 2023



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Historic Trinity

Lutheran Church

December 25, 2023

PRELUDE

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Alexandre Guilmant

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

INVOCATION

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

People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

from Isaiah 9:2; Psalm 98:4, 6

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: **make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us go to our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.
Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk always in the paths of righteousness in our thinking, speaking, and acting; we have not loved You completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live as sisters and brothers of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this day. In Your great mercy, forgive and renew us that we may be servants of our eternal King to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: To us a Child has been born; to us God's Son has been given! His eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of His mercy and forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ Amen.

THE INTROIT *Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor/Choir: 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. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

THE GLORIA PATRI

☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

CHRISTMAS KYRIE

The Kyrie Eleison ("Lord have mercy") for Christmas is drawn from the familiar Christmas tune "Coventry Carol", first written in 1534 at the time of Luther. The Hymn of Praise is traditionally removed during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.



O Je- sus Christ, have mer- cy Lord. Grant us Thy ho - ly peace. Have



mer - cy Lord, Im - man - u - el. Be Thou our "God with us".

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

LSB 378



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And
2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose
3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not
grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I
Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This
cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste
deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -
from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and
me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan
dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -
love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, we celebrate today the birth of Your one and only Son, Jesus. Prepare our hearts to receive the message of His incarnation with renewed joy. We give You thanks, Father, that You sought us out even when we were lost in our sin and rebellion. We know that we deserve to be deserted for what we have done, yet we rejoice in what You chose to accomplish on our behalf. Receive our praises, Jesus, for You are our joy and salvation. You are our Emmanuel.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:7–10

(God's salvation is cause for singing.)

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*arr Burroughs
The Cathedral Choir*

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–12

(Jesus shows us God's true nature.)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."
⁸ But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰ And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

(Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Angels announce His birth.)

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

People:



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

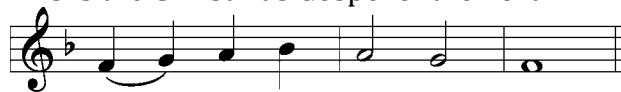
⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Christmas Gospel of the Lord.

People:



■ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 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.

SERMON

"O Happy Day"

Luke 2:10-11

*Rev. Ronald Guettler, Cathedral Pastor
 Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

OFFERTORY HYMN

LSB 370 v. 1, 3

♪ 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!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

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

“Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabella”

David McKay Williams

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

The Order of Holy Communion

THE PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

People: 

☐ And with thy spir - it.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Lam 3:41*

People: 

☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Ps 100:4*

People: 

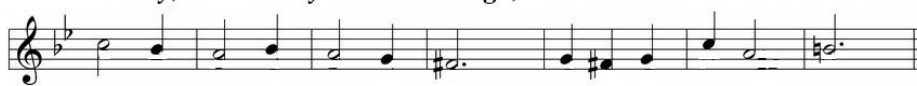
☐ It is meet and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for by His birth He has brought Your light to this dark world and revealed the greatness of Your eternal love for all mankind. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, O ho - ly Lord most high, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth! Dis -
Ho-ly, O ho - ly Lord most high, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth! Ho -



play His glo - ry heav'n and earth! Bless-ed is He who comes.
san - na in the high - est! Bless-ed is He who comes.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Thanks be to You, O Lord, for in these last days You have illuminated this dark world through the appearance of Your Son, who has displayed the glory of Your great love. He is Your Word inseparable from You; through Him You made all things and with Him You were well pleased.

People: **He was obedient to Your will,**

Pastor: contending against the dark forces of this fallen world,

People: **even to death on the cross.**

Pastor: Draw all Your people to the brilliance of Your light;

People: **fill us all with Your Holy Spirit so that we may reflect the light of Your love and give You the glory in word and deed, in song and service.**

Pastor: To You, with the Spirit and Your ✱ Son, be all glory in the Church, now and forever.

People: ♪ Amen.

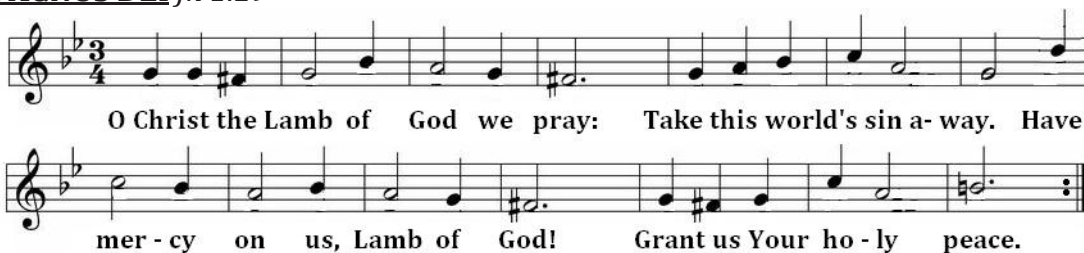
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25

THE PAX DOMINI Jn 20:19

Pastor: The peace of Lord be with you all.

People: ♪ Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI Jn 1:29



O Christ the Lamb of God we pray: Take this world's sin a-way. Have
mer - cy on us, Lamb of God! Grant us Your ho - ly peace.

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DISTRIBUTION

*For those with health concerns, there are gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white wine available.
Communion will take place in two continuous lines at the altar.*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 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



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



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

“Away in a Manger”

LSB 364

**♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the 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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**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.**

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that we shall ever put our hope in Jesus, Your Son and our King; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the light of Christ dispel all darkness from your life, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and abide with you forevermore.

People: 
A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368



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.

POSTLUDE

“Break Forth Into Joy”

J. S. Bach