

The Festival of the
NATIVITY

December 25, 2024



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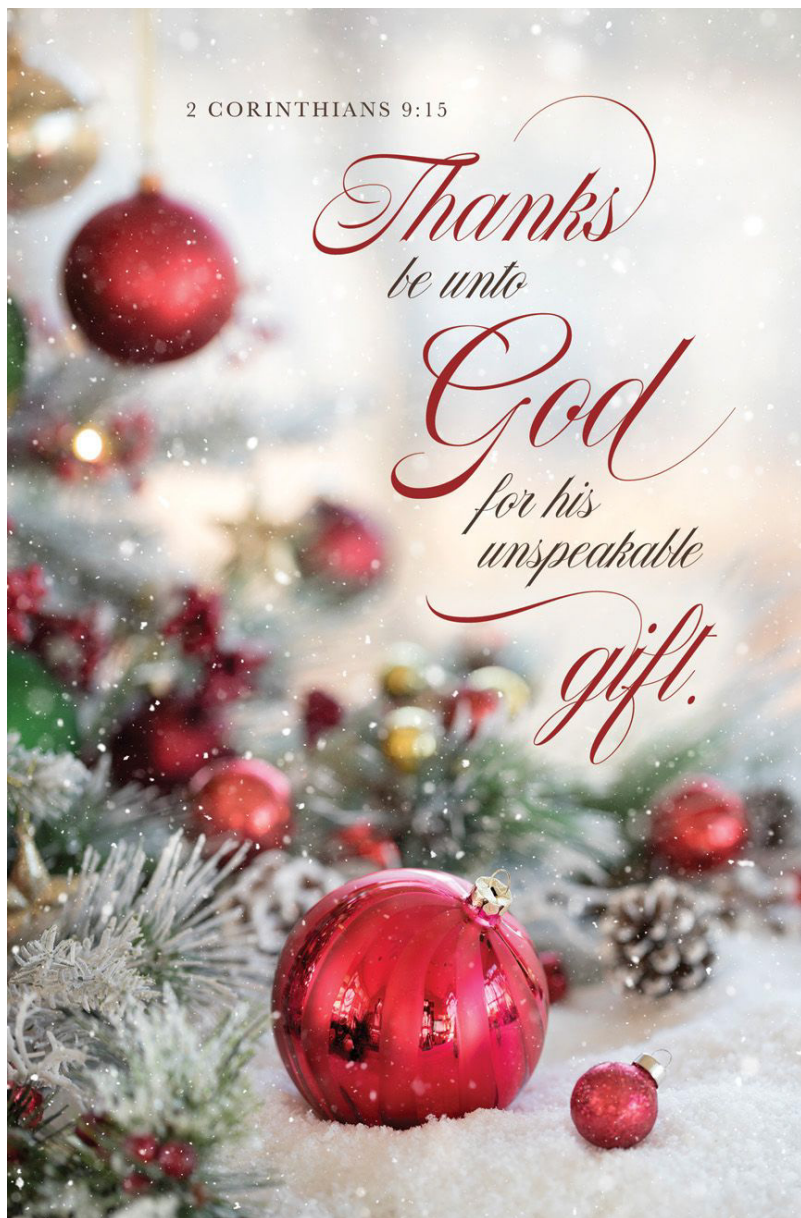
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Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

December 25, 2024

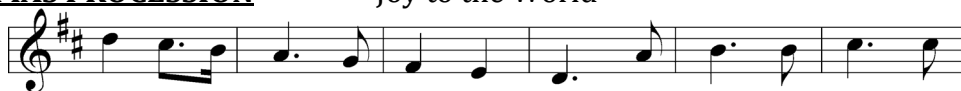
PRELUDE

"Où s'en vont ces gais Bergers" *Jean-Francois Dandrieu*
("Where are they going, these happy shepherds?")

CHRISTMAS PROCESSION

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387



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
joy, 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.

INVOCATION

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

People:  Amen.

OPENING VERSES

Psalm 98:4, 1, 2

Pastor: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

People: **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.**

Pastor: The LORD has made His salvation known. He has revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness.

People: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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.

People: **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.**

Pastor: Receive our praises, Jesus, for You are our joy and salvation. You are our Emmanuel.

People: **God, be with us now in this place. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS VERSE

LSB 374 v. 3

♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Listen to the words of Isaiah once again, "Prepare the highway for My people to return." On this Christmas Day, we prepare our hearts for Jesus by humbly confessing our sins to Him:

People: **We rejoice, heavenly Father, in the gift of Your Son, Jesus, our Emmanuel, God with us. Yet, even on this day of joy, we cannot escape the truth that it was because of our sin that You had to send Your Son to our broken and sinful world to suffer and die in our place on the cross. Without Your faithful love we would be lost forever because we have failed to do the things we should have done and for doing the things we should not have done. Forgive us not because we deserve this but because Jesus was born for our salvation and took our place on the cross.**

Pastor: Behold, your Savior has come! You are not deserted nor are you forsaken. Your God has sought you out. He has found you and redeemed you. With His blood He has bought you back from darkness and has made you His own. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✱ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS VERSE

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

LSB 388 v. 3

Refrain: ♪ **Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.***

CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

Isaiah 62:10–12

(“Behold, your salvation comes.”)

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

arr. Kenneth Kosche

The Cathedral Choir

GOD’S CHRISTMAS LETTER

Titus 3:4–7

(On account of God our Savior, we will inherit eternal life.)

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Pastor: This is God’s Christmas letter!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CHRISTMAS VERSE

LSB 383 v. 1

♪ A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!"

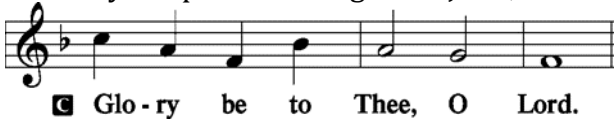
CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

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:



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:



A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Pastor: As the shepherds told everyone what had happened in Bethlehem on that first Christmas, we declare what we know and believe about God's Son.

People: **I believe in Jesus the Christ—child prophesied by Isaiah, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, named by Joseph, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men and celebrated by Simeon and Anna.**

Pastor: He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and people. He fulfilled God's law on our behalf. Though He never sinned, He took on our sin.

People: **He suffered, died on a cross, and was laid in a tomb. On the third day He conquered death and the grave and now reigns at His Father's right hand. He will return to receive all who cradle Him in the manger of their hearts. Thanks be to God for His gift too wonderful for words!**

CHRISTMAS HYMN

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
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;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
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.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
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!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

A CHRISTMAS WORD

"And It Came to Pass"

Luke 2:1

*Rev. Peter Nickel, Cathedral Pastor
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

OFFERTORY

"We Three Kings"

WOV 646 v. 2

♪ **Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
Oh--- star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

GATHERING OF CHRISTMAS 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

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Marcel Dupré

CHRISTMAS 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.**

*** The Order of Holy Communion ***

GREETING *(spoken)*

Pastor: May Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song for He has done marvelous things.

People: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

Ps 98:1

PROPER PREFACE

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, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. 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.

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

PRAYER

Pastor: Dear Father in heaven, as Mary wrapped the infant Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, we pray that You make ready our hearts to receive Your Son, Jesus, wrapped in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins.

People:  **Amen.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God!

People: **Glory to the newborn King!**

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.*

“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 day 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 -

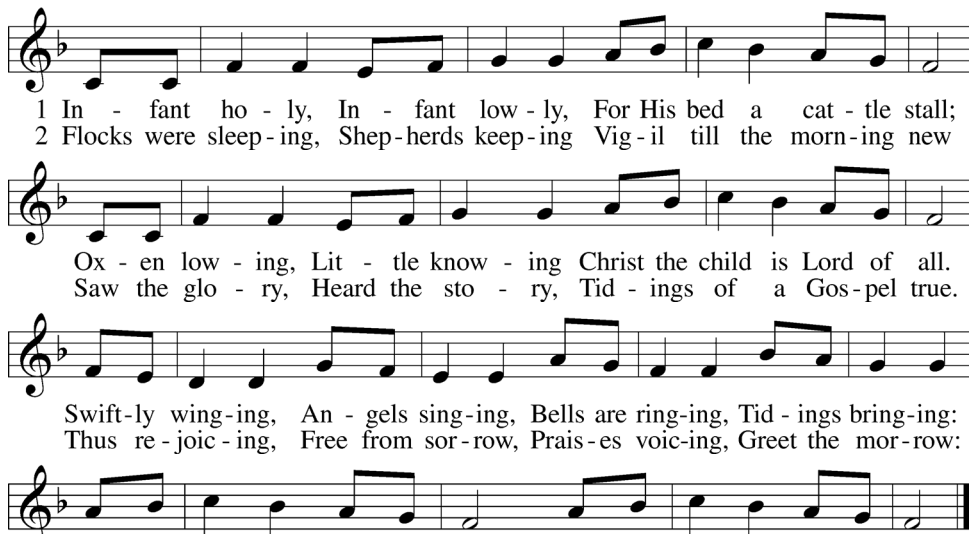
break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

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Pastor Andrzejewski thinks that the next hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" deserves attention. W Żłobie Leży ("In the Manger He Lies") is a traditional Polish Christmas carol, and the only Polish hymn in our LSB hymnal. In 1920, the song was translated into English as "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly", after being found in a Polish hymnal Spiewniczek Piesni Koscielne (pub. 1908), though the song itself may date back as far as the 13th century. The Polish text is attributed to Piotr Skarga (1536-1612), a Polish contemporary of the Reformation.

"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!

DISMISSAL

COMMUNION VERSE

LSB 364 v. 3

 **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.**



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Lord God, You are the giver of all good and gracious gifts. We are blessed to be those who receive these gifts in and through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You that You have once again assured us of Jesus' presence in wine and bread. Enable us in true faith to celebrate the nativity of Christ's birth upheld and comforted by its mystery and everlasting peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People:  **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor: May Jesus, the holy child of Bethlehem, bless you and keep you. May this little One who has fulfilled all God's promises smile on you and be gracious to you. May He look upon you with His favor and ✱ give you peace on this Christmas Day and always.

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

CLOSING CHRISTMAS MEDLEY

LSB 368, 361, 380

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

POSTLUDE

"Break Forth Into Joy"
(Christmas Oratorio)

J. S Bach
arr. Van Denman Thompson



*On behalf of the Historic Trinity pastors, staff, and congregation:
Merry Christmas, and join us in praising God as we stand at the eve of our 175th anniversary in 2025.
Over the past five weeks, we have welcomed nearly 5,500 worshippers, tourists, guests, and friends into our building. In that stretch, we have been blessed to share 22 worship services, 49 tours, and we gathered 758 people around our tables for lunches and dinners.*

*It has truly been our joy to let the light of Christ shine.
May He now bless you, and hold you always in the palm of His hand!*