



*Christmas Eve*

**2023**





**December 24, 2023**

- **Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!
- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

**Serving the Lord and Serving Us:**

**Pastor:** Paul Jenkins

**Tonight's Focus:** A Savior is born to us! Christ the Lord comes as God's promised Messiah; he saves us from our sin and sets up peace between God and us.

# We Come into the Presence of God

## MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*

## HYMN #42 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 See how God, for us providing, Gave his  
3 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -  
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is  
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Fore - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.

Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88 87) *Ein Schlesisch singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1555.

STAND

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **A CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER**

M: O gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver us from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we hear tonight.

**C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May “peace on earth” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

### **Isaiah 7:10-14**

*Through his prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will come to be with his people. (Immanuel means “God with us.”) He also reveals that he will come born of a virgin.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz again. He said, <sup>11</sup>“Ask for a sign from the Lord your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the Lord.”

<sup>13</sup> So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!”  
Alleluia! (*Luke 2:11*)

## SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

### **TITUS 3:4-7**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

## HYMN: #61 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,  
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

### *Refrain*



born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

*STAND*

## **GOSPEL**

### **LUKE 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*Be Seated*



# HYMN: #65 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And  
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The  
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To  
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of  
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To  
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -  
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 God the King And peace to all the earth.  
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.  
 Tune: ST. LOUIS (86 446 76 446) Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

## **SERMON**

Text: Titus 3:4-7

Them: "Christmas Home"

*STAND*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **OFFERING**

*Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register in the pew.*

*The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.*

**HYMN: #50, "Once in Royal David's City"**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en  
 3 But our eyes at last shall see him  
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble



Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a  
 Who is God and Lord of all, And his  
 Through his own re - deem - ing love, For that  
 With the ox - en stand - ing by Shall we



moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger  
 shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his cra - dle  
 child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our Lord in  
 see him, but in heav - en, Set at God's right



for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er mild,  
 was a stall; With the poor and mean and low - ly  
 heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren on  
 hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren crowned,



Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 To the place where he is gone.  
 All in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95, abr., alt.  
 Tune: IRBY (87 87 77) Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76.

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love that you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant-like heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ may not be only a seasonal attraction. Rather, bring sinners to faith so that they together with us may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the growth of your kingdom, and the glory of your Name. Amen.

## LORD 'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

*Lighting of Candles:*

*During the introduction of the hymn, the ushers will light the candle of each worshipper nearest the aisle, who will then light the candle of the next person and so on. Please remember to tilt unlighted candles and keep lighted candles upright.*

## HYMN: #60 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is  
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds  
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of

calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin  
 quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from  
 God, love's pure light. Ra - diant beams from

moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so  
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,  
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### **Catechism and Bible Class Schedules**

There will be no catechesis or Bible class on Sundays, December 24, or 31. Both will resume on January 7.

### **Christmas Day Worship Schedule**

Christmas Day worship will be at 10am and will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

### **Wine and Word Bible Study – January 4**

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or [dawn.f.knox@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### **Small Choir**

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

### **Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed**

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email [admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

### **Our Little Free Library**

Our Little Free Library always welcomes donations of books and food! If the library outside is full, you can place donations in the white plastic bin in the Fellowship Hall right beside the door to the hallway.

### **Lord's Supper Available to All Members**

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or [revpauljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.

**It is the mission of**  
**trinity**



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**to glorify God**

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.