



**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

December 24, 2024

The Nativity of Our Lord

8 p m

**We are blessed that you have joined us to
celebrate the birth of Our Savior.**

Notes on worship:

BOLD type = people of God = You

Regular type = leader

Italic type = directions or explanations

PRELUDE

Introduction to the Day



*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the
light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that
the light of the long-promised king will
illumine the world and bring endless peace
and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace
of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation*

*to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and
joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with
the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light
of Christ with the whole world.*

GATHERING HYMN ELW #283 vs. 1-3
Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

**1 Oh, come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of
angels.**

Refrain

***Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

**2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!**
Refrain

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain**

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE
(Lighting of Christ candle)

~Please stand as you are able.~

Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

**Tonight we pray for the healing of the
world.**

Tonight we pray in the stillness of this holy
night.

For the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Tonight we pray with hope, peace, joy, and
love.

**We know that God is with us in moments of
quiet reflection and bold action.**

We know that God is with us.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Amid the shadows of this world, let us confess
our sin and welcome the light of God's
forgiveness:

God of grace and truth,

**in Christ Jesus you come among us as light
shining in the darkness. We confess that
we have not always welcomed your
presence, nor trusted the good news of
great joy.**

**Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we
may live in the fullness of your love,
trusting in the grace of Christ. Amen.**

The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus
for he will save his people from their sins.
Adore this Child tonight, for he brings you the
love and forgiveness of your Creator. In the
name of the Word who spoke us into being, the
Word made flesh, the Word our Wisdom.

Amen.

GREETING

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

HTLC Choir

Christmas is a Time to Love

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"***

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

~Please be seated.~

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV
A reading from the book of Isaiah, the 9th chapter:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of their burden, and the staff for his, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warriors in battle tumult and every garments rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child has been born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and he is name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION SONG ELW #278 vs. 1&3
Away in a Manger

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender
care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14 NRSV
A reading from the book of Titus, the 2nd chapter:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety

and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

~Please stand as you are able.~

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #279 vs. 1
O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see
thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the
silent stars go by;**

**Yet in thy dark street shineth, the
everlasting light.**

**The hopes and fears of all the years, are
met
in thee tonight.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, beginning at the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am

bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #279 vs. 4
O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us,
we pray; Cast out our sins, and enter in,
be born in us to day. We hear the Christmas
angels, the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

~Please be seated.~

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

~Please stand as you are able.~

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #289 vs. 1-3
Angels We Have Heard on High

**1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis
Deo!**

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in
excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 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!

NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith saying the words of the
Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the
Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the
only Son of God eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him
all things were made. For us and our
salvation he came down from heaven; by
the power of the Holy Spirit he became
incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was
made man. For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and
was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the
Son he is worshiped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amazing Grace

Richard Nixon, Organ

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our
prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with
haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place,
send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation
you have revealed this night. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for
joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us
with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all
that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders
of the earth with your justice and righteousness.
Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and
bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The holy family finds shelter around the animals'
manger. Draw near to persons experiencing
homelessness, those who are alone this holiday
season, and all for whom this world makes no
room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and
mercy *especially Bob Sarro, Janice Rajgopaul,
Susan Henyan, Eugene Calamari, Loren Nouza, Ed
Unz, Peter Stiefel, Ruth Loomis, Betsy
Sommerlatte, Lorcan Nouza, Heather Chittum,
Osmín Chittum, and Biaggio Santanastasio.* God of
grace,

receive our prayer.

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary.
Watch over those who give birth this night and
attend to those who are dying. Be present in our
joys and in our sorrows. Be present with all who
experience racism and marginalization. God of
grace,

receive our prayer.

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving
for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in
the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by
their example into a people zealous for good
deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of
grace,

receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting
your grace made known to all, through the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

~Please be seated.~

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

ELW #296 vs 1&3

What Child is This?

**1 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!**

**3 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!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made
flesh.

Amen.

~Please stand as you are able.~

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and
merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made
flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a
new and radiant vision of your glory, that
beholding the God made visible, we may be
drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the
church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we
praise your name and join their unending
hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death,
resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O
Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this
heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus
Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the
Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and
forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. We receive communion in the form of a wafer and a small cup of wine or grape juice. Please tell the ushers if you need the bread and wine brought to you. If you are not yet receiving communion, or do not wish to receive today, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Follow the usher's directions.

A child has been born for us,
a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

~Please be seated.~

COMMUNION HYMN W&P #58

Here is Bread

**1 Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, drink the wine,
Christ is with us here.**

Refrain

***In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.***

**2 Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
Know His grace, find peace,
feast on Jesus here. *Refrain***

**3 Here we are, joined as one,
Christ is with us, He is with us.
We'll proclaim, 'til he comes,
Jesus crucified. *Refrain***

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

"A light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." When God created light and darkness in the beginning both were declared good and one does not exist without the other.

At this time the ushers will come forward to light your candle for the Incarnation Gospel and singing of Silent Night.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sicilian by J.S. Bach Tatyana Rajbali, Violin

~Please stand as you are able.~

INCARNATION GOSPEL John 1:1-14

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG ELW #281

Silent Night, Holy Night!

**1 Silent Night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round you virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories, stream from heaven afar.
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.**

BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry
you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.
And the blessing of almighty God, the Father,
the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #267 vs 1, 2 & 4 *Joy to the World*

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart, prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**4 He rules the world, with truth and grace;
And makes the nations prove.
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

What is our mission?

**Welcoming all to grow in faith, living
Christ's message of serving and loving
neighbors near and far.**

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God



*We enter into the joy
of another Christmas Day to celebrate
the birth of Jesus, an event which affects every
person on earth, because God truly entered into
human history through Jesus,
who is the living Christ.*

*Christmas blessings to each and every one of you
on this night of Christ's birth!
In a year where watching and waiting has been an
ever-present part of our realities, the message of
Good News of a child king born in a feed trough
brings hope of a time when God's love will extend
to all people including the marginalized and
oppressed.*

You're Invited!

LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 29th, 2024, 10:00am



HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

24655 87th Avenue

Bellerose, NY 11426

Phone: 718-347-0278

Web: holytrinitybellerose.org

E-mail: office@holytrinitybellerose.org

Pastor's E-mail: pastoranalyse@holytrinitybellerose.org

Rev. Analyse Triolo Lewis

Olivia Lu

Jean Klarman

Tatyana Rajbali

Richard Nixon

HTLC Children's Choir

Tatyana Rajbali

Ken Henyan

Kayla Persad

Rakesh Rajbali

Brandon Ng

Denice Watkins

Kyle Hanratty

Tiffany Hanratty

Gabriel Lu Correa

Kristian Persad

Pastor

Organist

Musician

Violinist

Guest Organist

Special Music

Assisting Minister

Reader

Acolyte

Acolyte

Crucifer

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