



Prelude

Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,

and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace

for David's throne and for his kingdom,

establishing and sustaining it

with justice and righteousness

now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to

David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Sermon

Hymn – "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Arrangement & recording provided by Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: 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 heavenly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Children's Sermon

All the Colors of Christmas by Matthew Paul Turner

A custom Trinity Lutheran Church coloring page can be downloaded from Facebook or our website. Enjoy making something beautiful with all the colors from the story!

Offering Prayer

God, as we recognize your light shining from the manger, let us see your glory all around us. May the gifts we offer reflect your light to a world in need of love and joy. Be enthroned in our hearts to rule over each thought, word, and deed. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

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!

Communion

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.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

Let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Now, people of God gathered here and online, hear these words of promise:
"This is the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you."

Reading: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.
The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.
The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.

But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Prayers

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Word of truth. You show us the light of life.
Guide us to follow you in paths of righteousness all the days of our lives.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon 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!"

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!

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude

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Merry Christmas!

Announcements:

January book group

Adults, here's an opportunity to learn and grow in faith: a two-part book study. We'll read the C.S. Lewis classic, "Mere Christianity," which has influenced the faith of Christians since its publication in 1952. Grab a copy from your favorite bookstore or library, and read it in time to discuss via Zoom on January 10 & 17 from 4-5pm.

Thrivent

Thrivent members- remember to go to Thrivent.com (to the Generosity heading) to direct Thrivent how you want your 'Choice Dollars' spent for 2020. You have until March to do this. Our church and other organizations have been financially strapped during the pandemic so this is way to help them. Also, remember to organize up to 2 "Action Team" projects per year to help families, give food/clothing, help a school, etc. to aid those in need in our community. Thanks, Brenda Emick-Herring

Trinity's Endowment Promise Fund

Trinity's Promise Endowment Fund is now taking requests for the 2020-2021 distribution of funds. Request must be made using the Distribution Request Form available by contacting the church or a committee member. Requests must be turned in by January 31, 2021. Trinity's Promise Endowment Fund was begun with a gift from Pastor Sondrell's estate. The interest from the fund is distributed each year via

approved gift requests. These funds are used to support the ongoing mission of Trinity Lutheran Church for local, national and global projects that advance the works of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Projects that have been supported in the past are computer and gaming equipment for The Gathering, the Trinity Youth Mission Trip to the reservations in South Dakota, Tents and cooking stoves for Boy Scout Troop 76, funding for an automated door at the Senior Center and equipment for Cedar Manor and the automated door and sidewalk project at Trinity. If you would like to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund you may contact Pastor Beth or one of the committee members and they can help you with that also. Committee Members are Laurie Brandenburg, Chairperson, Mike Herring, Treasurer, Beth Ahrens, Secretary, Charline Thumm, J.W. Wartick and Pastor Beth.

Council Letter

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As your Church Council, we would like to thank everyone for understanding and adapting to the many changes in our faith life. Pastor Beth has been very innovative in leading worship and supporting all the ministries of our congregation.

We are thankful for those who have donated at such a difficult time, especially when personal finances may be stretched thin. The council has been carefully watching Trinity's budget. We received a stimulus check in April to help with salaries and we have cut back on expenses where we can. However, our monthly expenses have been averaging about \$1000 a month more than our offerings.

We wanted you to be aware of our financial situation. Please prayerfully consider if you can provide extra support for Trinity's ongoing mission at this time.

Yours in faith