

A vertical rectangular image with a dark blue, starry night sky. Numerous white, out-of-focus dots of varying sizes are scattered across the sky, creating a soft, ethereal effect. In the lower portion of the image, the dark silhouettes of several evergreen trees are visible against the lighter blue background. The trees are of various sizes and are positioned in the foreground and middle ground, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and quiet.

Silent night,  
holy night,  
Son of God,  
*love's pure light.*



Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

We gather to worship the only God and Savior: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **He gave up his Son**

**December 24, 2025**

Christmas Eve Worship

The Nativity of Our Lord

"Glory to God and peace on earth!" We join the angels in praising God for Christ's birth at Christmas. We human beings have even greater reason to rejoice than the angels. You see, God was not only giving his Son, but God was giving his Son up for us all.

Today's worship is broadcast live on YouTube. The YouTube link can be found at the church's website:

- [holytrinity.church](http://holytrinity.church)

After the service, the recording can be accessed at the same YouTube site.

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The service begins as the Advent wreath and the center Christmas candle are lit.

Hymn 346 *Angels We Have Heard on High*



- 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 ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

P: On this holy night, the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: **Amen.**

## Psalm 96

P: Sing a new song to the LORD; let the whole earth sing to the LORD.  
Sing to the LORD, bless his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

**C: Declare his glory among the nations,  
his wondrous works among all peoples.**

P: For the LORD is great and is highly praised;  
he is feared above all gods.

**C: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.**

P: Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.  
Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
bring an offering and enter his courts.**

P: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.  
Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns.  
The world is firmly established, it cannot be shaken;  
he judges the peoples fairly".

**C: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and all that fills it resound;  
let the fields and everything in them celebrate.**

P: Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy before the LORD,  
for he is coming—for he is coming to judge the earth.

**C: He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his faithfulness.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Word of the Father, when you became flesh and made your home among us, the heavens were glad and the earth rejoiced. In hope and love we await your return. Help us to proclaim your glory to those who do not know you, until the whole earth sings a new song to you and the

Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Song                      *Welcome to Our World*

1. *Tears are falling, hearts are breaking  
How we need to hear from God  
You've been promised, we've been waiting  
Welcome Holy Child, welcome Holy Child*
2. *Hope that you don't mind our manger  
How I wish we would have known  
But long-awaited, Holy Stranger  
Make yourself at home, please, make yourself at home*
3. *Bring your peace into our violence  
Bid our hungry souls be filled  
Word now breaking heaven's silence  
Welcome to our world, welcome to our world*
4. *Fragile finger sent to heal us  
Tender brow prepared for thorn  
Tiny heart whose blood will save us  
Unto us is born, unto us is born*
5. *So wrap our injured flesh around you  
Breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sin and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God The Word*

### **First Lesson — Micah 5:2-5**

Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah;  
one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me.  
His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.  
Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of the ruler's brothers will return to the people of Israel.  
He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the LORD,

in the majestic name of the LORD his God.  
They will live securely,  
for then his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.  
He will be their peace.

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Lesson—Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### *Choir Song    Tonight in Bethlehem*

*Tonight in Bethlehem there is a light, a special light for all the world to see.  
It isn't very big, and it isn't very bright, but it shines, how it shines  
through the darkness of night; still it shines, how it shines for me.*

*Tonight for me a light does shine, and humbly points the way  
where shepherds kneel to pray. And rests upon a Child, so divine,  
before whom kings their homage pay.*

*Tonight in Bethlehem a heav'nly ray, sheds light upon a stable tenderly.  
And in a bed of hay there the little Christchild lay.  
And he smiles, yes he smiles, though my debt he must pay;  
still he smiles, how he smiles for me.*

P: The Christmas Gospel according to Luke chapter 2.

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel—Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)**

*The congregation joins to speak the words in bold.*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

**And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."**

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things,

and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

**CREED**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*Hymn 340    Away in a Manger*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,





the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Sermon—Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)

*He gave up his Son*

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

*Hymn 335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
 2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
 3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with  
 4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
 did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
 sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
 now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
 Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
 flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.  
 storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.

Stanzas 5,6 on page 9

5 Not one he will or can forsake;  
his promise he will never break.  
Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try,  
you may his utmost pow'rs defy.

6 You shall and must at last prevail;  
God's own you are, you cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise  
with joy and patience all your days.

## OFFERING

*The kings of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings will present him gifts.  
All nations will bow down to him and all nations will serve him (Psalm 72:10,11).  
We too serve Jesus Christ with our offerings.*

*You may place your offering in the plates or use Online Giving.  
The QR code at right will also take you to the giving site.  
Thank you for your offerings.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

*What Child Is This (4:00 p.m.)*

*Air on the G String by JS Bach (6:00 p.m.)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Eternal and gracious Lord, we rejoice with hearts and voices because you sent your one and only Son from his majestic glory to save us from the slavery of sin and the agonies of death. He took on our human flesh that he might reveal your divine glory. He became our brother that we might become your children forever.

Give us quiet time during these busy days to reflect on your love and ponder the miracle of our Savior's incarnation. Help us look beyond our gift-giving and gift-receiving, and discover the greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins and life with you. Put the joys of Christmas into the perspective of our eternal celebration, and let music and art lift our hearts to Christ who is truly the center of the season.

Keep in your loving care all whose Christmas joys are diminished by sickness and sadness, by unhappy recollections and uncertain hopes. Comfort those who sense this Christmas may be their last, and raise their eyes to the brilliant lights of heaven. Soothe consciences that are troubled by guilt and regret, and show them the forgiving love of Christ.

We commend to your care all who proclaim the message of Christ during

these holy days; all who care for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons; and all who put themselves out to bring joy to others, especially children. Let the light of your grace shine through all ministries of mercy.

Send us your Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift our hearts to confident faith and holy living. By the power of your Word, bring your light to hearts struggling to understand you and searching to find you that they may know the joys of this season as we do. Empower us to lead them to your love in our words and deeds.

Hear us as we bring you our private prayers.

*Silent prayer.*

All this we ask in the name of the newborn King, born in Bethlehem and now living and reigning forever in heaven.

#### **THE 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.**

#### **BLESSING**

**P:** 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.**

*The lights are dimmed.*

*The flame from the Christmas candle is spread to all the worshipers in the sanctuary.  
When lighting candles, please tip the candle that is being lit, not the candle doing the lighting.  
The candles remain lit during the singing of Silent Night.*

Hymn 337     *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 thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Carefully extinguish candles.*

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

Minister: Pastor Bart Brauer

Accompanist: Joanna Grassell

Flute: Angela Gray

Trumpet: Jordan Beckman

Trio: Megan, Hannah and Lauren Rodmyre

### Acknowledgements

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## **Christmas Day**

Christmas Day worship with communion is tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.