

# Christmas Eve

## Nativity of Our Lord I

December 24, 2020



### TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**PRELUDE**

(\*Congregation Stands as able)

Christmas Variations

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,  
the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus,  
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

C: **Gracious God,**

**in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness.**

**We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope,  
so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of  
Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a  
Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

*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)*

*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)*

**REFRAIN**

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

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

## FIRST LESSON            Isaiah 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

L: Isaiah 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

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.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
  you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
  as with joy at the harvest,  
  as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
  and the bar across their shoulders,  
  the rod of their oppressor,  
  you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
  and all the garments rolled in blood  
  shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
  a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
  and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
  Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** “Joy to the World” (This hymn is based on Psalm 98.)

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King; Let every  
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.*

*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.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He  
comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the  
curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*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.*

**SECOND LESSON** Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.  
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the  
hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

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.

A: The Word of the Lord,

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** : Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**P:** The Gospel according to Luke the Second Chapter

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### \*HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!*

### \*APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.\*  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. **Amen**

## \*PRAYERS

A: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Each petition ends:

A: God of our salvation,

C: **Have mercy and hear us.**

P: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: **Amen.**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you**

## FRENCH HORN SOLO

Shane Brown "Carols of Christmas"  
arr. by John Jay Hilfiger

## \*OFFERTORY

"What Child Is This"

(sung as the offering is brought forward)

*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!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name.

C: Amen

## \*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**

## CLOSING DIALOG

P: The Word of God that is Christ

C: **has come to us today in the fragile form of a baby.**

P: This child relinquishes immortality to become human

C: **So that we might have eternal life.**

P: This child commands a universe

C: **Yet is a servant to us all.**

P: This child is God with us,

C: **Emmanuel**

**All: May we accept God's gift of life, and live to serve as Jesus served.**

**Amen.**



**\*THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS**

*(Sing as candles are lighted)*

*(tune to hymn # 84 “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning)*

*Father of lights, in whom there is no shadow  
Giver of every good and perfect gift  
With one accord we seek Thy Holy Presence  
Gladly our hearts to Thee in praise we lift.*

*Thou and the Christ to Thee we owe allegiance  
May our devotion sweep from sea to sea  
Even as we, the gift from thee receiving  
Joyfully minister that gift to thee.*

**\*HYMN**            “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, Heavenly host 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,*

**\*CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**A:** Let us pray

**C:** **O God, who has made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of Jesus the True Light; grant that, having known on earth the mysteries of that light, we may also come to the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Light looked down and saw darkness. "I will go there," said Light.  
Peace looked down and saw war. "I will go there," said Peace.  
Love looked down and saw hatred. "I will go there," said Love.  
So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us. May he continue to be beside us from this time forth and forever more.

**C:** **Amen**

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. (Refrain)*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain)*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. (Refrain)*

**REFRAIN**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo*

**\*DISMISSAL**

**A:** Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Festive Postlude

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Elizabeth Hess ..... Pastor  
Cindy Finnegan ..... Organist/Pianist/Choir Director



We thank **Patty Bennett** and **Debbie Garritano** for all their efforts in coordinating the poinsettias.

# Christmas Poinsettias

## Presented to the Glory of God



### In Honor of

---

Our loving family, Megan, Aaron, Ben, Kelsey, Joshua, Colin and Zephyr  
Alexandra and Bowden  
by Gene & Carol Laich

Janz Camigh  
by Don & Vivian Corl

Pastor Eli Hess  
by Ken & Sharon Kutz

### In loving memory of

---

H.R. Auker, Sr., Betty Auker, and Charles W. Auker  
by Patti Auker

Bob Camigh and Laura & Ted Bare  
by Janz Camigh and family

Harold & Thelma Gampe  
by Charleen Beichler

Richard L. McCahren & Wilbur G. Ebersole  
by Richard, Elizabeth and Kaylyn Ebersole

Jo Ann Boyd  
by Terry L. Boyd

Kay A. McCahren  
by John & Sandra Ebersole

Leroy & Grace Weakland and Mary Louise Brown  
by Lori & Jeff Brown and family

Rosanna Ebersole  
by John & Sandra Ebersole

Parents, Fred & Gertie Kutz and Brother Fred R. Kutz  
by the Callis and Kutz families

Mom, Shirley M. Colbert  
by Jonnie Frederiek

Daughter, Lori Callis Thompson & Son-in-law, H. Bruce Ta  
by Carol Callis

Paul & Mary Inlow  
by John & Debbie Garritano

Marvin & Jean Vzit  
by the Cogan and Vzit families

Naney Moffitt and Gloria Kimmel  
by Linda Gibbons

Jim, Mary and Linda Diedzich  
by Dave & Paula Diedzich

Patrick Gibbons  
by Linda Gibbons

Paul, Louise and Roz Winnaugle  
by Dave & Paula Diedzich

James Gosnell  
by loving wife Barbara & family

- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Martin and Lucille & Ray Marsico and Lynn (Martin) Fausnet  
by Barb Gosnell
- Mr. & Mrs. Blaine Gosnell and Martha & Dale Harten and Ronald Gosnell  
by Barb Gosnell
- David R. Graczy, Sr.  
by Debbie Graczy and family
- Richard & Beverly Gunsallus and Robert C. Graczy  
by the Graczy family
- Wagne and Margareta Perry  
by the Gutshall family
- Parents and Son, Tom  
by Tom & Marla Hammond
- James L. Iekes  
by Robert & Nancy Iekes
- Granddaughter, Michèle Wolf  
by Robert & Nancy Iekes
- Tom & Rose Marlett  
by Ken & Sharon Rutz
- Loved ones  
by Gene & Carol Leach
- William Lewis, Sr.  
by Joanna Lewis & family
- Shirley McGregor  
by Tina & Clair McGregor
- Reynolds & Pat Merritts  
by Bill & Sandy Mallory
- William & Edna Mallory  
by Bill & Sandy Mallory
- Kenneth A. Miller, Jr.  
by Ruth & Sue
- Kenneth & Ruth Miller  
by Ruth & Sue
- Roy, Virginia & Roy Mook, and Madison Miller  
by Marilyn Mueller
- My Niece, Michelle C. Bridges  
by Ken Myers and Lisa Harten
- My Father, Jack Myers  
by Ken Myers and Lisa Harten
- Dad, Carl Wright  
by Ken Myers and Lisa Harten
- All those lost to the coronavirus  
by Ken Myers and Lisa Harten
- My Uncle, Robert Myers  
by Ken Myers and Lisa Harten
- My Parents, Dick & Lois Tusszy  
by Carol Paul
- John Robert and his Grandparents  
by Debbie Simpson
- Ellsworth & Margaret Simpson  
by Tom & Emily Simpson
- Robert & Rhoda Schulz  
by Tom & Emily Simpson
- My Brothers, Chet and Jerry Simpson  
by Tom & Emily Simpson
- Loved ones  
by Bart Steeze
- Best Friend, John Hudak  
by Carolyn Stenger
- Parents, Alvin & Naomi, and Brother, Thornton  
by the Stenger family
- Our friend, Czeibert Parks  
by Norma, Mike, Missy, and Gavin Stenger
- Loved ones  
by Diane Summers and Alice Bender
- Marvin & Jean Zeit  
by the Cogan and Zeit families

# PRAYER LIST

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Kyle Eberhart  
Nathan Frank  
Justin Patz  
Jason Smith  
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## NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE

### TO YOU THIS DAY

Luke sets the stage for Jesus' birth by placing it within the royal history of the Roman Empire: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus" (Luke 2:1). Prior to this chapter, Luke tells us the story is also set in the days of King Herod. World history is often told as a story of powerful rulers and wealthy people. We frequently have the impression that these people are the ones who truly matter. Most of us do not see ourselves in the pages of history, common folks living ordinary lives.

Luke, however, is writing a very different kind of history in the gospel story. While the story is set in the times of particular kings and emperors, these powerful men aren't the focus of the story. Instead of sending out the royal birth announcement for the King of kings in a gold-embossed birth letter to Herod, Augustus, and other so-called important people, God first shares the news of the newborn Messiah and Savior with shepherds camped out for the night in lonely fields. Lowly Mary and humble Joseph hunker down in the back of a crowded house where the animals eat. Jesus, the royalty of God, is born into a world barely aware—except for a few nobodies who are invited to notice.

Along with the shepherds, you also are invited to notice. "You" is the operative word in the shepherds' story. "To you is born this day . . . a Savior" (Luke 2:11). In the story, "you" refers to shepherds, the last people one would expect to be the first to receive news of Jesus' birth. But today, in this divine night, in this sacred story, in this liturgy of the nativity, "you" is *you*. To *you* is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. You are receiving the royal announcement because God brings good news to common folks living ordinary lives. This lovely, lonely night is for you because Christ is God's love for *you*.

