

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025
THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION
7:00 P.M.



Holy Center of this most holy season, Jesus, child and ruler, all our stars point to your birth; all our wanderings come home to you; all our griefs and delights find a place in the stable where you choose to transform poverty and pain and loneliness and rejection. Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our anger, sorrow, and loss; your life opens us to new discovery of our most intimate selves and of our neighbors, however we may find them – as poor as shepherds, as foreign as magi, as thoughtless as innkeepers, as helpless as infants. In your humble birth we discover your everlasting majesty and grace. We welcome you and offer you our thanks and praise, in your glorious name.

Amen

THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS - 7:00 P.M.

The Prelude

A TIME OF PREPARATION. A TIME OF SILENCE AND PRAYER.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, arr. Lorie Line; Clarice Doughty, vocalist

O Holy Night, arr. Adolphe Adam; Anya Gilbert, flute

Veni, Veni Emmanuel, arr. Wayne L Wold; Ava Morgan, organ

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, arr. Linda Boatright; Bell Choir

Il Est Ne' Le Divin Enfant, arr. David Cherwein; Ava Morgan, organ

Once in Royal David's City, arr. Linda Boatright; Bell Choir

*[At the conclusion of the prelude, the Pastor will ask you to stand.
Please orient to the processional cross at the entrance of the nave.]*

The Invocation

P. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image; long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom; eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges; a thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the Eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

The Entrance Hymn #283 OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

The Greeting

P. 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.

The Prayer of the Day

P. 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.

C. Amen

[Please be seated.]

The Lesson - Isaiah 9: 2-7 ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

[Please stand at the conclusion of the reading.]

The Gospel Procession: The Proper Alleluia Verse for Christmas Eve

P. The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C. Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

The Gospel Lesson - Luke 2:1-20: ¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a

child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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. (spoken)

The Gospel Recession: *Gloria*, Jacques Berthier

[please be seated]

The Sermon: The Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence follows. Please stand with the Pastor for the hymn.]

The Hymn of the Day: #270 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

The Prayers (*kneel or sit as able*)

A. Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C. Amen

The Offering: Celebration Choir: *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* by Natalie Sleeth

[Please stand as directed by Pastor]

The Offertory Carol: WHAT CHILD IS THIS stanza 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!

The Offertory Prayer

P. God of heaven and earth,

C. from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen

The Preface Dialogue

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

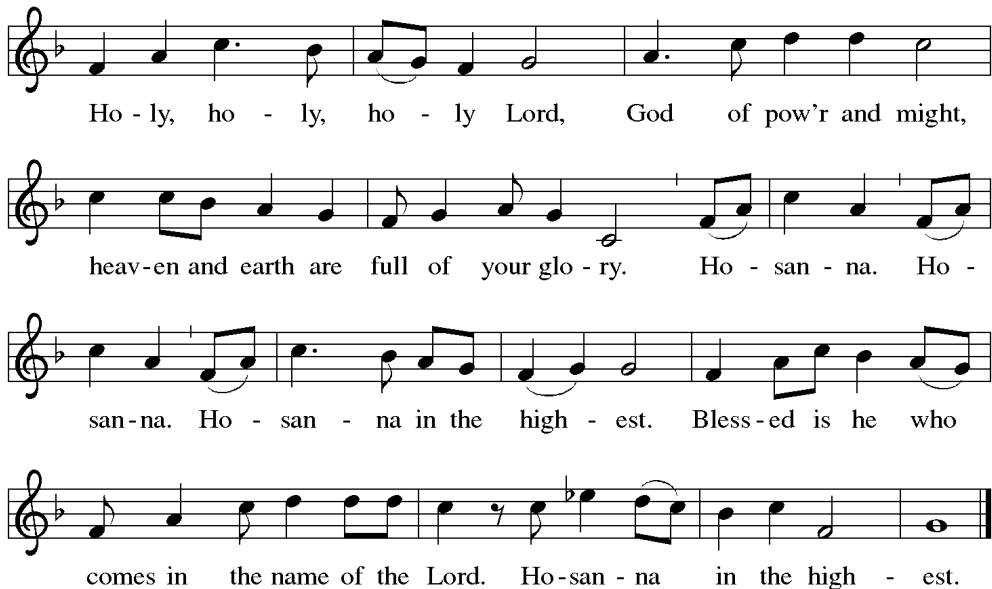
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface for Christmas

P. "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy...



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons. In the night in which he was handed over, 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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P. Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

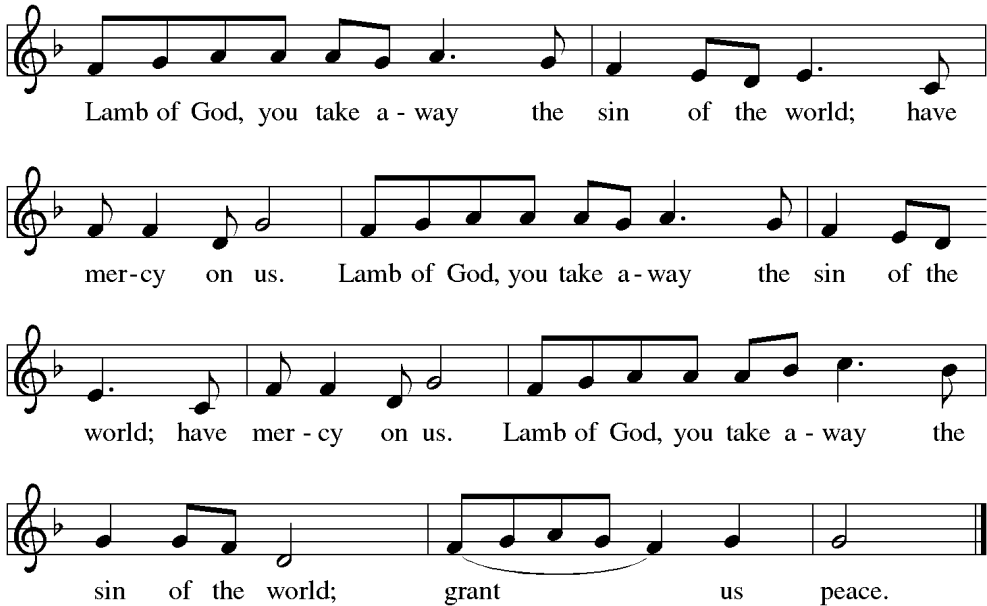
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Fraction

P. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

C. We have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

The Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

[Please be seated.]

The Distribution

[All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a cup to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful]

A Festive Gloria, Patti Drennan

(Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to people of good will.
We praise you, we thank you, we adore you).

- #279 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
- #282 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR
- #277 AWAY IN A MANGER
- #300 THE FIRST NOEL
- #269 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY
- #276 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

The Post Communion Blessing

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

The Service of Light

[The lights are dimmed. The light is passed by the torchbearers to the congregation. Please turn to those around you with the light. When all the candles are lighted, the pastor will read.]

John 1: 1-5

P. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Hymn: #281 SILENT NIGHT

[Please hold your candles aloft during the singing of stanza 3.]

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly 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.*

[There is silence.]

The Blessing

P. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

[Please extinguish your candles.]

The Recessional Hymn: #267 JOY TO THE WORLD

[Please orient to the processional cross.]

The Dismissal

- A. Go in peace glorifying and praising God for all we have heard and seen.
C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: Joyful Tidings, James Moffatt

OUR WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

ASSISTING MINISTER
COMMUNION ASSISTANT
LECTOR
COUNCIL TEAM
ACOLYTES
AV
ALTAR GUILD
USHERS:
LINENS:

Kathy Kuhns
Curtis Boos
Mike Sernoffsky
Elaine Sernoffsky, John Fuehrer
Lillian Doughty, Natalie Mull, Ava Morgan, Anya Gilbert
Rob Gilbert
Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett, Charlann Brubaker
Norm Wangman, Phyllis Doughty, Winnie Gerlach, Clay Brubaker
Brenda Wangman

WE THANK ALL who serve in our liturgies. If you are interested in sharing in these ministries, please call the Church Office.

Holy Trinity's Staff

The Pastor
The Organist
The Administrative Assistant
Sr. Choir Director

The Rev. Mark Luscombe
Debbie Fortna
Sue Johns
Deb Olson

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:

✠ In memory of our mothers, Pearl Hetrick and Pauline Gehman who both entered the Church Triumphant on Christmas Day; by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

Pastor Luscombe, the staff of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and their families extend to all of you who have gathered for this liturgy a sincere wish for a joyous and peaceful Christmas celebration. May God's peace and presence be with you this night and always.

Prayers of the People

The family of Joy Althouse
Barry Kreider – Ephrata Hospital
The family of Michael Williams
Kathrin Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543
Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522
Stephanie Williams, daughter of Michael Williams
David Vrooman, brother-in-law of Michael Williams
Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert’s mom
Adam D’Andre – friend of Lori Spitzer’s parents
Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Rd, Stevens, PA 17578
Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522
All persons affected by war and violence
Victims of natural disasters
Shut-ins of the Parish
President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation
All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna
Emmalyn Mulvenna
Janet Brunner
Andrew Campbell
Michael Spennath
Tony Perella
Mike & Claudia Belden
Henry Perella
Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers
Dan Wierbiki
Jacob Hinkle Jr.
Karen Woerner
Kim Harnish
Rick Gerhard
Wyatt Geithweit
Les Doremus
Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik
Heidi White
Johnny White
Jacob Connelly
Sue & Denis Rowe
Crystal Perry
Hank & Pat Kajetzke
Terry Gehman
Jill Puleo

Brent Stever
Alan & family
Dori Hoch
Cindy Stahl
Martha Becker
Chris and Karen Payonk
Alysha Fassnacht
Melissa Hughes

John Surdich
Ava Berkosky
Amy Pasili
Theresa Cimino
Eric Mortorell
Duke & Bonnie Leeper
Sheldon Garman
Devin Collins

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called “Online Giving” will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



2025



Poinsettias

In loving memory of R. Barry Albright; by Betty Albright.

In loving memory of our parents, and Charlann's sister;
by Charlann & Clay Brubaker.

In loving honor of our children, grandchildren & great grandchildren;
by Charlann & Clay Brubaker.

In loving memory of my husband, Les Burkins; by Marge Burkins.

To the glory God; by Lisa Garrett & Adam Doughty.

In loving honor of our family, Tom, Angela, Ava, Lucy Berkosky
and Geoffrey, Lisa, Chloe & Colin Schreibeis; by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

In loving memory of Joyce's brother Howard Hornberger Jr. and sister Dorene Keefer;
by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

In loving memory of our mothers, Pearl Hetrick and Pauline Gehman who passed away on
Christmas Day; by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

In loving memory of our fathers, Howard Hornberger Sr. and Richard Gehman;
by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

In loving honor of our children and grandchildren; by Jake & Linda Hinkle.

In loving memory of our parents, Jacob & Joy Hinkle and Melvin & Loretta Burkins;
by Jake & Linda Hinkle (2).

In loving memory of James Hooper; by Joyce Hooper

In loving memory of my husband, Carl Houck; by Anne Houck.

In loving memory of parents Olive & Walter Wenrich & Abby & Anna Houck;
by Anne Houck.

In loving memory of Carl's wife Sue, who as a couple had 48 wonderful years together;
by Carl Rentschler.

In loving memory of Sue's parents, Eugene K. & Marion C. Herr; by Carl Rentschler.

In loving memory of Carl's parents, William P. & Mary L. Rentschler; by Carl Rentschler.

In loving memory of Carl's sister, Joyce M Hawkins; by Carl Rentschler.

In loving honor of our daughter Megan, and her family; by Carl Rentschler.

Trees

In loving memory of R. Barry Albright; by his family.

In loving honor of our church employees and volunteers; by Charlann & Clay Brubaker.

In loving memory of his wife, Mrs. Cathy Yocum Doremus. by Dr. Daniel B Doremus.

In loving memory of our parents: Galen and Jane Forney; by Craig and Jan Forney.

In loving memory of James Hooper; by Joyce Hooper

In loving memory of my friend Marti Nissley & my father Carl Tobias; by Carlene Kerschner.

