

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2024  
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.**

*The First Noel*, arr. Sandra Eithun; Handbell Choir

*Ave Maria*, Bach/Gounod; Theresa Mull, violin

*Worship the Gift*, Traditional; Eliza, Natalie, and Theresa Mull, vocalists

*The First Noel*, 17<sup>th</sup> Century English Carol; Anya Gilbert, flute

*In the Bleak Midwinter*, arr. Anna Laura Page; Handbell Choir

*What Child Is This*, arr. Al Van Der Beek, John Schmidt, Steven Nelson;  
Evan Young, cello

*[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.]*

*One Small Child*, arr. Molly Ijames

**The Lesson - Isaiah 9: 2-7** <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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:** <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of

David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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. (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. Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A. God of grace,

**C. receive our prayer.**

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

**C. Amen**

**The Offering: Celebration Choir:** *While by My Sheep*; arr. Hugo Jungst

*[Please stand as directed by Pastor]*

**The Offertory Carol** #296 WHAT CHILD IS THIS [stanza 3 only]

## 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 glass 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. <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The 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:** *Joy to the World*, arr. Virgil Fox



## OUR WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

Kathy Kuhns

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

Curtis Boos

**LECTOR**

Curtis Boos

**COUNCIL TEAM**

Bill Spitzer, John Weiss

**ACOLYTES**

Judy Willams, Natalie Mull, Anya Gilbert, Ava Morgan

**AV**

Live Stream

**ALTAR GUILD**

Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan, Ann & Bob Snader

**USHERS:**

Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker

**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 Ministers

The Pastor

The Lay Parish Assistant /Church Musician

The Administrative Assistant

Sr. Choir Director

#### The Baptized

The Rev. Mark Luscombe

Donna L. Nace

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

John Duing – Bob & Ann Snyder's friend  
Duke & Bonnie Leeper – friends of Mike and Judy Williams  
Brock Barshinger – Tom & Kitty Dickersheid's grandson  
Jim Hooper – Joyce Hooper's husband. 309 Bank Hill Rd. Wrightsville, PA 17368  
Jill Puleo – Cheryl Plummer's cousin  
Ryan Johnson – nephew of Deb & Trig Olson  
Carl Rentschler – 116 Barn Owl Rd. Lititz, PA 17543  
Colleen Kresge – friend of Lori Spitzer  
Sheldon Garman – Friend of Mike & Judy Williams  
Henry Perella – great-nephew of Judy Williams  
All people affected by war  
Victims of natural disasters  
Shut-ins of the Parish  
President Biden 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 contact the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish to be on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please contact 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 circumstance making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna	COL. Eric Bowers	Jim Weik	Brent Stever	John Surdich
Emmalyn Mulvenna	Dan Wierbiki	Heidi White	Alan & family	Ava Berkosky
Janet Brunner	Jacob Hinkle Jr.	Johnny White	Dori Hoch	Amy Pasili
Andrew Campbell	Karen Woerner Kim	Jacob Connelly	Cindy Stahl	Theresa Cimino
Michael Spenrath	Kim Harnish	Sue & Denis Rowe	Grant Hummer	Kim Burke
Asher D'Agostino	Rick Gerhard	Crystal Perry	Martha Becker	Eric Mortorell
Tony Perella	Wyatt Geisthweit	Hank & Pat Kajetzke	Chris and Karen Payonk	
Mike & Claudia Belden	Les Doremus	Terry Gehman	Alysha Fassnacht	

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# 2024



## Poinsettias

In loving honor of by family; by Mom, Grandma, & Great Grandma,  
Betty Albright.

In loving memory of Joyce; by Dave Bowers.

In loving memory of our parents, and Charlann's sister, Donna;  
by Charlann & Clay Brubaker. (2).

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

In loving honor of my grandchildren: Annamae, Bryant, and Carin Croft; by Peggy Croft.

In loving memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. H. Clifford Doremus; by Dr. Daniel B. Doremus.

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

In loving memory of his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph A. Hirneisen and Mr. & Mrs.  
Henry P. Doremus; by Dr. Daniel B. Doremus.

In loving honor of my grandchildren: Emily D. Rettew, Ethan W. Rettew, Clarice I. Doughty,  
Lillian A. Doughty; by Phyllis Doughty.

In loving memory of my daughter Diane J. Doughty; by Phyllis 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 parents Howard Hornberger Sr. Joseph & Pearl Hetrick and  
Richard & Pauline Gehman; by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

In loving memory of Bill Gilbert; by Rob Gilbert.

In loving memory of Linda's brother, Les Burkins; by Jake & Linda Hinkle.

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

In loving honor of Jesus Christ's birthday; by Joyce Hooper.

In loving memory of John R. Moyer, John H. Moyer, Erma A. Moyer: by your loving family (2).

In loving memory of Mike Mull; by Mark Mull & family.

In loving honor of my parents Gary & Donna Nace, by Allen Nace (2).

In loving memory of Morris & Mabel Barndt, Edna Lear, and Leah Stever;  
by Gary & Donna Nace.

In loving memory of Helen Stever and Allen & Marion Nace; by the Nace family.

In loving honor of our children Allen Joseph & Amanda Jo, and  
Leah Elizabeth & Sean Michael, with love & thanksgiving; by Gary and Donna Nace.

In loving honor of our granddaughters, Caroline Joy & Molly Mae, with love and thanksgiving;  
by Gary and Donna Nace.

In loving honor of the children and youth of our congregation; with love and thanksgiving;  
by Donna Nace.

In loving memory of Martha J. Nissley; by Donald Nissley (2).

In loving memory of Sue Rentschler; 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.  
In loving memory of Edward Sr. and Margaret Weiss; by John & Lyn Weiss.  
In loving memory of Edward Weiss Jr. & Helen Slaven; by John & Lyn Weiss.  
In loving memory of Chester & Mary Jane Schoenberger; by John & Lyn Weiss.  
In loving memory of John Doll & Pam Ekimoff; by John & Lyn Weiss.  
In loving memory of Nathan, Laura, Jaden & Eli Enders; by John & Lyn Weiss.  
In loving honor of our children & grandsons; by John & Lyn Weiss.

## Trees

In loving memory of R. Barry Albright; by Betty Albright.  
In loving honor of church staff; by Dave Bowers.  
In loving honor of our children, grandchildren & great grandchildren.  
by Charlann & Clay Brubaker.  
To the glory of God; by the Doughty family.  
In loving memory of our parents: Galen and Jane Forney; by Craig and Jan Forney.  
In loving honor of our children & grandchildren: Amanda, Laura, & Danny and Memphis,  
Lakelynn, Layliana & Laurelyn; by Jake & Linda Hinkle.  
In loving memory of my husband, Carl Houck and parents Olive & Walter Wenrich &  
Abby & Anna Houck; by Anne Houck.  
In loving memory of Marti Nissley; by Carlene Kerschner.  
In loving memory of John R. Moyer, John H. Moyer, Erma A. Moyer: by your loving family.  
In loving memory of Martha J. Nissley; by Donald Nissley.  
In loving memory of Donald & Daisy Townsley; by Denise & Matt Shirker.  
In loving memory of Bruce Shirker; by Denise & Matt Shirker  
In loving honor of our family: Chad, Cindy, Lila & Chris; by Bob & Ann Snader.

