



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

**Tuesday, December 25, 2018**

**10:30 a.m.**

*Welcome to Holy Trinity!*

*Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.*

*We invite our guests as well as members to fill out the blue sheet,  
Found inside your bulletin, and place in the offering plate.*

*Using a smartphone? While we ask you to please silence your ringer,  
Feel free to check-in, post, tweet or Instagram  
your experience today using the hashtag #PowerofTrinity.  
Friend us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo)*

## THE VOLUNTARY

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Paul Manz  
(1919 – 2009)

*Ringing of the Tower Bells*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE OPENING HYMN

*The Bells of Christmas* “Det kimer nu til julefest”

ELW 298

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has  
shined; (Is 9:2)**

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. (Lk 2:7)

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6)**

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. (Jn 3:16)  
**O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, O Come let us  
adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

### **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

May the Good News of great joy, light and life, grace and peace, be  
with you all. **And also with you.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human  
nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace  
adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit,  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* “W Zlobie Lezy”

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
  
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

The first reading for Christmas Day is recorded in Isaiah, the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-12**

The second reading for today is recorded in Hebrews, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; <sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel, if able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to Saint John



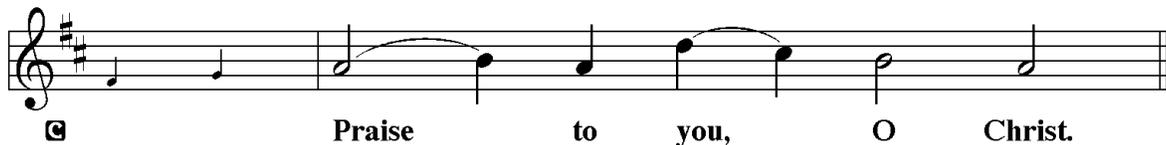
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<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.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. The gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Love Has Come* “Un Flambeau”

ELW 292

## **THE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Created in the image and likeness of God, we pray for the light of life in all people, for new birth among us, and for communities that long for new life.

You, O God, form your church as the body of Christ. Reshape our hearts to know your grace, open our vision to see your truth, and make our mouths ready to proclaim your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the creation comes into being. Call us by a new word to live in harmony with the fragile planet that is our common home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You announce peace and salvation to all the earth. Inspire our leaders to find achievable paths toward greater comfort, justice, and peace. We pray especially for all men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your years never end. Sustain those whose increasing years make them weary, console the young who have already known struggle, and protect newborns whose years are just beginning. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your voice resounds among us. Give sufficient breath and abundant resilience to those who lead our praises in these festive days. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are changeless from generation to generation. Anoint us with the oil of gladness and number us with your saints, who with angels and archangels know you and your majesty to be boundless love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace*

*An Offering Plate can be found at the entrance –  
please place envelopes in the plate as you exit.*

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

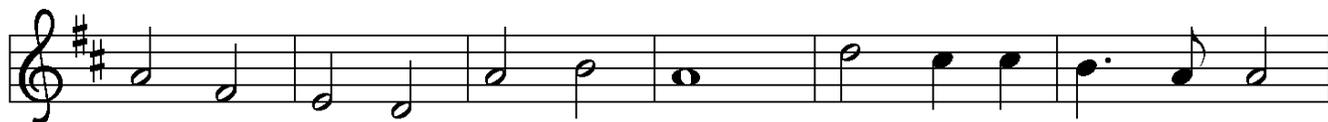
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE:

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## 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, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

## THE HYMN DURING COMMUNION

*The First Noel* "The First Nowell"

ELW 300 (vs. 1-4)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE CLOSING HYMN**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* “Go Tell It”

ELW 290

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God’s people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in G Major BWV 557

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)



## *A Few Announcements*

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Immediately following the 10:30 meeting, we will be holding a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish to pass and join us for fun and fellowship.

Memorial Brick dedications are still available. Our new garden veranda will provide a gathering space for the community all around us. This is your opportunity to play a special role in the building of our Garden Veranda. Memorial Bricks may now be reserved and dedicated in the memory of, or honor of, a loved one. Order forms for the bricks may be found on the tables at the entrance ways.

### **Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion**

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church



Many thanks to today's reader, Justin Pomietlarz



On behalf of Pastor Miller, Pastor Maynor  
and The Church Council ~

Many thanks to our talented staff and  
gifted volunteers for all their hard work  
this Christmas Season

A blessed Christmas to all!

---

## Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II  
The Rev. Brenda Maynor  
Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist  
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster  
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)  
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

### **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209**

**(716) 886-2400 phone/ (716) 884-7505 fax**

**E-mail: [info@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:info@holytrinitybuffalo.org)**

**[www.holytrinitybuffalo.org](http://www.holytrinitybuffalo.org)**

Friend us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo)



Copyright ©2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.