



THE HOLY EUCHARIST
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
January 3, 2021 + 11:00am

TRINITY LOWER EAST SIDE LUTHERAN PARISH
in the City of New York

Welcome to worship! *We are so glad that you have been led to join us for worship this morning, and we believe that your presence among us more fully completes our community. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, please know that you are most welcome here, and we invite you to fully participate in our life together in whatever way you feel called to do. Our prayer is that you find Trinity to be a place where you are welcomed and affirmed in all your fabulous quirks and eccentricities, and that you feel truly seen and valued as a fellow child of God, beautifully and perfectly created in God's image! If you'd like to learn more about how to join us as we seek to embody God's love as a community of Christ, just speak with Pastor Will!*

+ + +

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors as we have been loved by God. We believe that loving our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us, compels us to show great care as we gather for worship in the midst of a global pandemic. In order to ensure that our gathering is as safe as possible and minimizes the spread of disease, we ask you to please join us in following these important health and safety protocols:

- Face coverings must be worn at all times while on Trinity's property. Both mouth and nose must be fully covered.
- Please avoid close physical contact with anyone outside of your household, including refraining from handshakes or hugs. Six feet of distance should be observed at all times, including at the sharing of the Peace.
- Because communal singing has been shown to significantly spread COVID through airborne particles, all singing will be done by our cantors. Please refrain from singing, even if it's your favorite hymn, and allow the text and music of the hymns and liturgical music to speak to you in your heart and mind.
- At the distribution of Holy Communion, only the bread will be offered in order to reduce contact with the chalice. Rest assured that receiving Holy Communion "in one kind" is a fully effective and valid means of receiving the promise of Christ's presence and forgiveness in the sacrament. Please remain at your place, and the presiding minister will come to you with the bread. Keeping your face covering in place, wait until the presiding minister has moved on to the next worshiper to lower your mask and consume it.
- An offering basket is available at the usher's station at the entrance for your gifts in order to avoid passing the offering plates from hand to hand. We are grateful for your generosity!

+ Gathering +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,
we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,
but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel, vv. 4 & 5

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God,

you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star.

Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands,

and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
The refrain is sung by the cantor.

♩ = 120

Ami C Ami C Ami C D Emi

For he shall de - liv - er the poor who cry out in dis - tress, and

*Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. **

Ami C Ami C Ami C D G *vamp in Am*

he shall have pi - ty on the need - y and the weak.

*Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. *Lea. **

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ²that he may rule your people righteously
 and the poor with justice;
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. *Refrain*
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
 from one generation to another.
- ⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
 like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. *Refrain*

- ¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
- ¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight. *Refrain*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

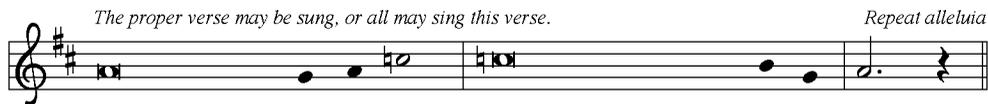


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse. *Repeat alleluia*



We have observed his star | at its rising,* and have come to | worship him.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact

time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

A period of silence follows, introduced and concluded by bell.



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling, especially those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The people may greet one another with a wave, a peace sign, a bow of the head, or any other sign of peace that allows for physical distancing.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+ Meal +

OFFERING

To avoid multiple people physically contacting the offering plates, your gifts of money may be left in the basket at the usher's station. Offerings may also be made online at www.trinitylowereastside.org/give as one-time or recurring contributions.



OFFERTORY SONG

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.
Gracious God,
you came to us as one unknown,
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table,
that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the presiding minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The presiding minister continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes:
... be all glory and honor, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

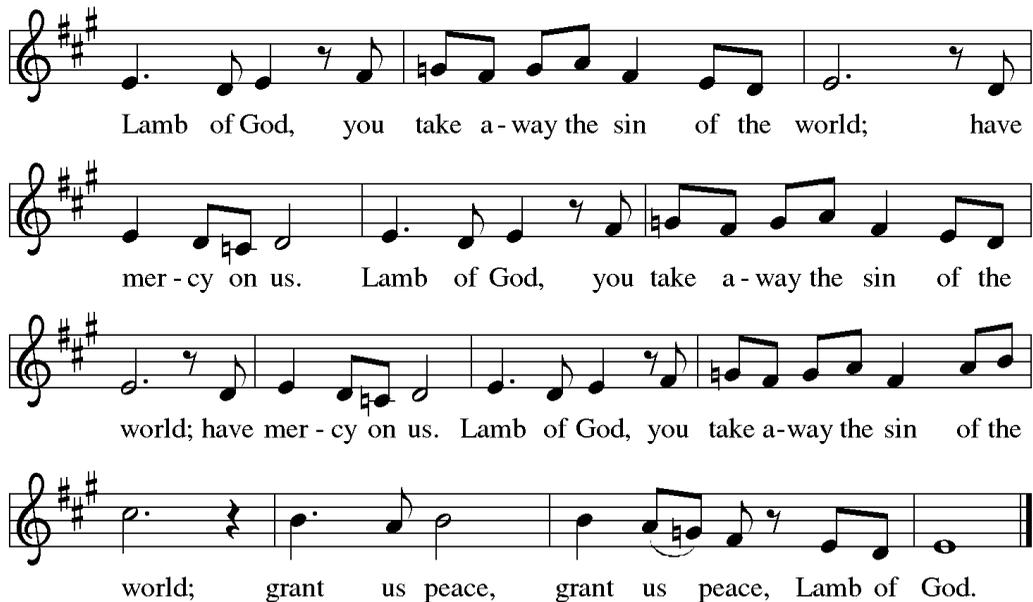
The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Holy Communion. To reduce the risk of infection, only the bread will be offered in the form of gluten-free wafers. Please remain at your place as the presiding minister comes to you, keeping your face covering in place and waiting to consume the bread until they have moved to the next person.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are: "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, Lamb of God." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

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, Lamb of God.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ.

Through this mystery, send us forth
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

+ Sending +

BLESSING

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright, vv. 1 & 2
found on the following page.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

About Trinity:

Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are 3.8 million Christians in 10,000 churches who believe that the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the core of our faith and life. We welcome women, men, and people of all gender identities into ordained ministry and are enthusiastically ecumenical.

Our Mission:

We welcome everyone into membership regardless of race, economic means, married/single status, sexual orientation, or gender expression and/or identity. We are a richly diverse congregation in a richly diverse neighborhood. We live our Christianity in word and deed. We are here to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Reconciling Works Congregation:

Trinity LES is listed as a Reconciling Works congregation that welcomes LGBTQIA+ people into our fellowship and works to erase all discrimination against them.

Our Outreach:

To carry out our ministry of deed, Trinity LES has a separately incorporated non-profit program, Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless (also known as SAFH, pronounced "safe") which operates a soup kitchen, food pantry, and offers connections to other services. Between 150-250 meals are served each day, and around 30-40 families are given groceries from our pantry Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed. Visit safhnyc.org for more information.

Those Who Serve:

Pastor: Rev. William Kroeze (pastor@trinitylowereastside.org)

Pianist: Paul Staroba

Choir Director: Alex Lawrence (alex@trinitylowereastside.org)

Worship Assistants, Crucifers, Readers: Members and Friends of Trinity

Our Contact Information:

Address: 602 E. 9th Street, New York, NY 10009

Telephone: 212-228-5254 x11

Fax: 212-674-3872

Website: TrinityLowerEastSide.org

Twitter: @Trinity_SAFH

Facebook: [Facebook.com/TrinityLES](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLES)

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