

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:30 PM



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

530 4th Street Northwest

Faribault, Minnesota

(507) 331-6579

www.trinityfaribault.org

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**RINGING OF THE BELLS****WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS****OPENING HYMN: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358, vv. 1-3**

P. Tonight we will tell the story about Christ Jesus. It is important for us to be reminded of the greatest miracle of life that this world has ever known.

P. God’s plan of salvation started back in the Garden of Eden. Listen to God’s Word.

PROPHECY: *Genesis 3:15*

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

P. Several prophets throughout the ages have also added to our understanding of the Savior to come.

PROPHECY: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,
¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it
be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”
¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I
will not put the LORD to the test.”
¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of

David! Is it too little for you to weary
men, that you weary my God also?
¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give
you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a son, and shall call
his name Immanuel.”

FULFILLMENT: *Luke 1:26-38*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel
was sent from God to a city of Galilee
named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed
to a man whose name was Joseph, of
the house of David. And the virgin’s
name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her
and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the
Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly
troubled at the saying, and tried to
discern what sort of greeting this might
be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not

be afraid, Mary, for you have found
favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will
conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He
will be great and will be called the Son
of the Most High. And the Lord God will
give to him the throne of his father
David, ³³and he will reign over the house
of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom
there will be no end.”

(continued...)

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old

age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

CHOIR & CONGREGATION “Once in Royal David’s City”

Solo: 1 Once in royal David’s city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir Ladies:

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly
Lived on earth, our Savior holy.

Choir: 3 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Choir & Congregation:

4 Not in that poor, lowly stable,
 With the oxen standing ‘round,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
 Where His saints His throne surround:
Christ, revealed to sacred eye,
Set at God’s right hand on high!

-Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.
Text: Public domain

NARRATIVE: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son,

and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

EPISTLE: 1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one

another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB 361, vv. 1-4**PROPHECY: Isaiah 11:1-2, 10-12**

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

(continued...)

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

¹¹In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros,

from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

¹²He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

FULFILLMENT: *Matthew 1:1, 16-17*

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

APOSTLES' CREED

C. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN & CONG. SING: "Away in a Manger" LSB 364, vv. 1-3

SERMON: "JOSEPH'S DILEMMA – OBEY" *The Rev. Peter Gueldner*

OFFERING "On Christmas Night" *Trinity Choir*

GOSPEL NARRATIVE: *Luke 2:1-7*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CHOIR “The Shepherd’s Noel”**GOSPEL NARRATIVE: *Luke 2:8-14***

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city

of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368, vv. 1-3***GOSPEL NARRATIVE: *Luke 2:15-20***

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this

child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB 367, vv. 1-2, 5*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P. Let us pray.

O Dayspring from on high, babe of Bethlehem, we follow in the steps of those who knelt in humble adoration at Your manger so many years ago. Like shepherds of old, we thrill to hear the message that the herald angel brings: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." We, too, go to see this thing that has happened. The glory shines around us as well. Our hearts grow warm before the meaning of the miracle. God is love, indeed, and there is hope for all who humbly open up their lives to You. You have come to do for us what we are so helpless to do for ourselves. Empower us to fulfill in faithfulness the things that You have given us to do, so that like ancient shepherds, our daily walk may become for us a road of glory and a mission of peace.

P. As You did with Mary and Joseph, so make Your home in our human lives and hearts. As Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Judea, lead us wherever we may help to carry out Your plan for humankind. As Mary brought into this world "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel," so enable us, too, to bring Your peace to desperate people.

Grant that all who see our worship of the newborn babe wonder at the way we keep this day. And O Bethlehem's royal prince, let there be some who, because of us, ponder these things deep within their hearts.

We praise You, the sun of righteousness, who has risen with healing in Your wings; we praise You now and evermore.

C. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" LSB 363, vv. 1-3
(watch choir director)

* * * **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** * * *



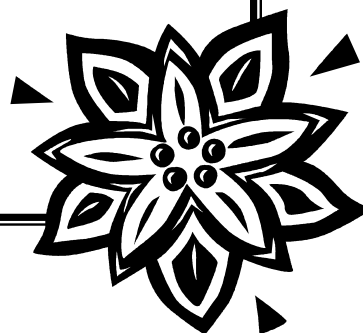
Rev. Gueldner will be out of the office from December 26, 2024, through January 3, 2025. Please contact the church office or your Elder for concerns and emergencies.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight: December 24, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: December 25, 9:00 a.m.

**No New Year's Eve or New Year's Day
Services**



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