



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 2015



Members, guests, visitors: Welcome to worship on this holy night. We gather to walk with the shepherds, to sing with the angels, to worship at the manger of the Child born as Savior to the world. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register at the rear of the nave and join us for worship again. We have a transport chair available to members and guests when needed. Please ask an usher for assistance.

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God that Christ is fully present among us. We invite you to participate in receiving this miraculous presence. If you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. You are welcome to come to the Table to be fed and nurtured with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

The assembly stands (as you are able)

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

- The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

☐ For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

☑ **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

GREETING

☐ Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

The grace and compassion 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 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.

☑ **Amen**

The assembly is seated.

SAXAPHONE SOLO: *A Christmas Medley* (Taylor Kuhs)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

☐ Let us read responsively the reading from Isaiah:

☐ 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.**

☐ ⁴For 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.**

☐ ⁶For 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.**

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290 verse 1)

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

☐ A reading from Titus.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

℣ The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Love Has Come* (ELW 292)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

✠ Glory to you, O Lord.

In 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.

℣ The gospel of the Lord, given for you.

✠ Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

PEACE

℣ The peace of Christ be with you always.

✠ And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277 verse 1)

OFFERING PRAYER

℣ Let us pray.

C Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

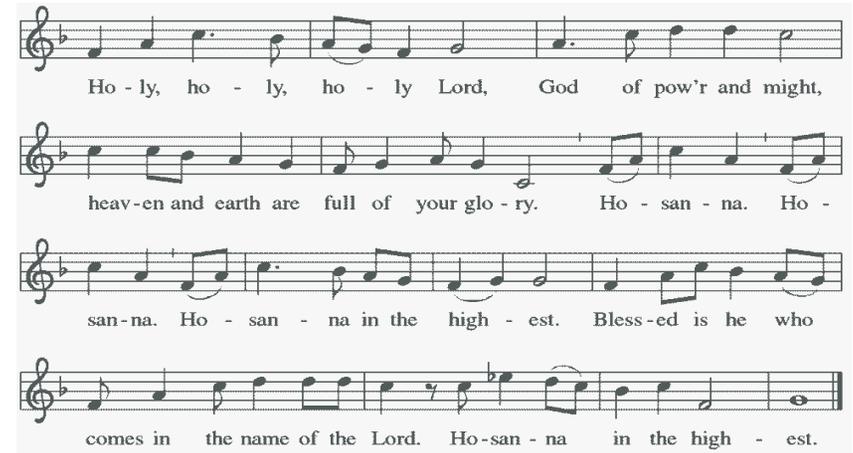
PREFACE

The presiding minister continues.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presiding minister continues.

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 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.

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 God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister introduces the prayer.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The bread of God comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.
Come, eat, and live.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION

Communicants will proceed up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. If you wish to receive the wine from the pouring chalice, please pick up an individual

cup from the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread from the pastor, proceed to the pouring chalice or the common cup to receive the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward with your arms crossed over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor come to you.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

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.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNION HYMNS: (1 stanza each) 269, 275, 276, 279, 282, 288 289, 296, 300

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister says a table blessing and the assembly responds:

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

☞ Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We give you thanks, O God,
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
you give us food for our journey.
As you led the magi by a star,
as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

In 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.

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

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

¹⁴And 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 PRAYERS

A Glory to God in the highest,

C and peace to God's people on earth.

A Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

A Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

A Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

A Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

A Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

The minister lights a large candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

REMEMBER: DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE!

HYMN OF LIGHT: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)

BLESSING

P May God fill you with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the Magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

May the Triune God, + bless you and keep you, now and forever.

C Amen

The candles are extinguished.

DEPARTURE HYMN: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. God is incarnate among us.

C We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



- SERVING TONIGHT -

Vicar Pam Illick	Presiding Minister
Charles Strausbaugh	Assisting Minister
Rusty Kreitz	Lector & Communion Assistant
Katherine Dennis.....	Crucifer
Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice & Rhonda Rice	Organists/Pianists
Carol Snyder.....	Nursery
Donald Becker.....	Usher
Amy Dennis.....	Usher
Linda Fleagle.....	Usher
Judi Rice.....	Usher
Linda Bennett.....	Altar Care
Amy Dennis & Linda Fleagle.....	Offering Tellers



- SERVING DECEMBER 27 -

Vicar Pam Illick	Presiding Minister
Linda Bennett	Assisting Minister
Katherine Dennis.....	Crucifer
Jenny Rice & Rhonda Rice	Pianists/Organists
Carol Snyder.....	Nursery
Joanne Crider.....	Usher
June Ecker	Usher
Marie Seidel.....	Usher
Linda Weddle.....	Usher
Linda Bennett.....	Altar Care
Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder	Offering Tellers



The poinsettias on display have been placed as follows:

In honor of -
 Alexis Marie Kramer-Foose by Beverley and Gordon Foose,
 Jarrett Hall, grandson, by Richard and Sally Berklite,
 Avery and Jocelyn, daughters, by Chad and Karen Bumbaugh,
 Katherine, daughter, by Paul and Amy Dennis,
 Jon and Linda Fleagle, grandparents, by Katherine Dennis and Avery and
 Jocelyn Bumbaugh,
 Amy, Paul and Kat Dennis and Karen, Chad, Avery and Jocelyn Bumbaugh
 by Linda and Jon Fleagle,
 Pam Lobley, wife, by Jim Lobley.

In memory of -
 Blaine (Jeff) and Betty Geesaman and Michael Gordon Foose by Gordon
 and Beverley Foose and family,
 Donald Fry and Shirley and Marco Perez, parents, by Brad and Shirley
 Sanders,
 Anne and Elton McNew by daughter and son-in-law, Sondra and Bill
 Musser,
 Terry Sease, husband, by Delores Sease,
 Family members by Sherri Kayhoe,
 Norman and Emma Eberly, parents, by Diana Mowen, Barbara Layman
 and Terry Eberly,
 Norman and Emma Eberly, grandparents, by Kira Mowen,
 Flo and Robert Kepner, Sr., Robert Kepner, Jr, and Vera and Donald
 Fleagle by Linda and Jon Fleagle,
 Bob and Jake Ecker and Calvin and Rhoda Shoop, parents, by John and
 June Ecker,
 Woodrow W. and Marie Shindledecker, Michael Shindledecker, Rodney
 Stoops and Matthew Dixon by their families,
 Paul Martin by Jim and Pam Lobley,
 Charles "Monday" and Elve Martin and Earl and Grace Duffey, parents, by
 Earl and Carolyn Duffey.

(Note: Those taking poinsettias tonight are asked to inform Carolyn Duffey so she can check off your name on the list.)

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed in celebration of the glory of the Christmas season by Sondra and William Musser.

- THANK YOU -

Taylor Kuhs for her offering of music for tonight's service.

Lee and Lora Jean Greenawalt for sponsoring the beautiful tree in the sanctuary.

All those who assisted in decorating the church for the holiday season.



Sunday, December 27
10:45 AM

Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a service of scripture interspersed with familiar carols.

(Note: No Youth Sunday School or Adult Forum that day.)



- SUNDAYS AT TRINITY-

9:30 a.m. - Youth Sunday School and Adult Forum

10:45 a.m. - Worship

1st and 3rd Sundays Monthly - Holy Communion

2nd and 4th Sundays - Service of the Word

5th Sunday - Service of the Word for Healing



Vicar Pam and the Congregation Council of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church wish you all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season now and throughout the year ahead.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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- Our Mission -

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Vision -

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.