

# Trinity Lutheran Church

Growing in Faith... Sharing Christ's Love.

## Blue Christmas, December 15, 2022

### Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are joining us in worship this evening and we praise our Lord and Savior. We invite you to worship with us again and ask that you let us know that you were here by signing in on the book located at the end of your pew.

If you have trouble standing, please feel free to remain seated during the service.

### Parents of Small Children

For your convenience during worship, we have a nursery on the East end of the church. We also have a cry room in the back of the church.

#### Trinity Lutheran Church

Our Website: [www.trinitylm.com](http://www.trinitylm.com)

346 W. Pine St.  
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Phone: (920) 648-2717

#### Office Information

Office Admin: [office@trinitylm.com](mailto:office@trinitylm.com)

Monday- Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm  
Please call for additional office hours.

Pastor Mark's day off is Monday

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## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*(Please stand at “+” symbol)*

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**Prelude - Special Music**

**Lahna Anhalt, harp  
Corinne Magnoni, bowed psaltery**

## **GATHERING**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Pastor:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**Congregation:** **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

## **Blue Christmas Worship**

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**Hymn**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279 vs. 1, 3, 4 - music in back)**

**Reading**

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

## Special Music

## "Lo, How a Rose is Blooming"

Lahna Anhalt, harp

## Psalm 23

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

**C: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters;**

L: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

L: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Hymn

**Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW 295 vs. 1, 2, 5 - music in back)**

## Reading

**Luke 2: 1-7**

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.

## Special Music

## "Away in a Manger"

Corinne Magnoni, bowed psaltery

## Reading

**Matthew 11: 28-30**

[Jesus said,] “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## Hymn

**What Child is This? (ELW 296 vs. 1-2, music in back)**

## Candle Lighting

Pastor: This evening, we have a table with many candles. In the center, we light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always in the center of our lives. He hears our cries, he knows our hearts and, in the midst of all our thoughts and emotions, he offers us hope and healing.

*(Pastor lights a candle; brief silence follows.)*

Reader 1: From this central candle, we light four other candles, inviting the light of Christ to shine on important aspects of our lives. We light one for our grief, one for our courage, one for our memories, and one for our love.

Reader 2: This candle represents our grief. We invite Jesus' healing power to shine on the pain of losing loved ones, dreams that go unfulfilled, and hopes that evaporate in despair.

*(Reader lights a candle; brief silence follows.)*

Reader 1: This candle represents our courage. We ask for Jesus' Holy Spirit to strengthen our courage to live fully amidst serious health concerns, to confront the effects addiction, to share gentle truth, to endure sorrow and to hope in the midst of pain.

*(Reader lights a candle; brief silence follows.)*

Reader 2: This candle represents our memories. We bring before God our recollections of joy and sorrow as we light this candle for the memories of hopes, dreams and loved ones past and present.

*(Reader lights a candle; brief silence follows.)*

Reader 1: This candle represents our love. The love we have given, and the love we have received. The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt, and the love that has been recognized and shared throughout our time in this world.

*(Reader lights a candle; brief silence follows.)*

Pastor: The votive candles represent each of our lives with their happiness and sadness, blessings, dilemmas, and concerns. We invite you to come forward and light one of these candles, naming anything you would like to bring to God silently or aloud, thereby inviting God's light to shine on your life with healing, comfort and support. When you have lit your candle we invite you to take a flower. This flower represents the beauty and value God sees in you. It is yours to keep as a symbol that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Songs**

**Away in a Manger (ELW 278, music in back)**

**Give Me Jesus (ELW 770, music in back)**

**Love Has Come (ELW 292, music in back)**

*(When everyone has had the opportunity to light candles, the leader continues . . .)*

Pastor: Let us pray...

Comforting God, we commend to you our concerns, great and small, named and unnamed. Wrap us in your presence in this time of healing and remembrance. With these candles, help us see your light, so that we may be encouraged and sustained to live out the lives you have given us as fully as possible. **Amen.**

## **+Prayers of the Community and World**

As we come to the end of our worship service this evening, let us take a moment to pray for our community and our world.

Lord God, this evening we lift our prayers to you...

For all who are sick, weak, worn down, or living with chronic health conditions. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For areas where our environment and fellow creatures suffer distress, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who are abused, afflicted, and imprisoned, especially for the sake of the Gospel, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who bear the burden of caring for others and those who have responsibility to make difficult decisions for cause of justice. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who have experienced loss through death, separation, or the ending of relationships, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all of your people to receive the gifts of faith, hope, endurance, and love, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the forgiveness of our sins, Lord in your mercy,

## **Hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your people, O God, forgiving our sins, and granting us and all for whom we pray the sure and certain knowledge of your saving love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God now and forever. **Amen.**

## **+Our Lord's Prayer**

**ELW 134**

**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.**

## **SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

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## **+Benediction**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **+Closing Invitation**

This concludes our worship service, you are invited to remain and pray or to depart as you are ready. If you would like someone to pray with you this evening, we have stations up front. Simply come forward to the station of your choice, and we would love to pray with you.

## **Postlude**

(Some of the content of this service is adapted from an order developed and used at The Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Honolulu, Hawaii and from "A Service of Word and Table for Longest Night/Blue Christmas" written by the Rev. Robb McCoy with Taylor Burton-Edwards)

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

295



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - er, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 pect - ed; first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 si - lent; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 min - ion, and ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

## What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

# Give Me Jesus



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

# Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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