

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Rejoice This Happy Morn...Our Christ Is Born!

HYMN: ELH, 128 - *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

Invocation: In the name of God...the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin:

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

All: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

NARRATION: CHRISTMAS ACCOUNT: LUKE 2:1-12

Women – In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Men - There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! But the angel said to them,

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“Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people:

Women - Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

HYMN: ELH, 123 (1-6) - *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

NARRATION: CHRISTMAS ACCOUNT: LUKE 2:13-20

Men - Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Women - So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN: ELH, 113 – *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God is king!” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion. Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, because the LORD is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 98 (SUPPLEMENT)

EPISTLE LESSON: HEBREWS 1:1-9

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God’s angels worship him. About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire. But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of

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righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

HYMN: ELH, 135 – *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: LUKE 2:1-12

SERMON THEME: FOR YOU...THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: LUTHER’S EXPLANATION TO SECOND ARTICLE

ALL: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN: ELH, 142 – *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

OFFERING

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN: ELH, 125 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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A most blessed and joyful CHRISTmas to all! Truly, by His amazing grace, God’s love in His Son, Jesus, continues to shine brightly in our hearts and lives. We give heartfelt thanks for our Savior’s love that compelled Him to save us. We give praise to God the Father for loving us so much that He gave His Son to redeem us. We remain grateful to the Holy Spirit, who washed our sins away in baptism, brought us to saving faith and keeps us in the true faith through His faith strengthening word. God grant that His comfort, confidence of forgiveness and life everlasting abide with us now and forever!