

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord

11:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



December 25, 2023

Welcome! We are so glad you are with us today!

A few reminders and information for your time with us today

Service: Everything you need to join in the service is in this bulletin. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask one of the ushers (who handed you this bulletin) or a neighbor in your pew.

Children are always welcome in our worship service and we love to hear their joyful sounds and see their wiggly ways! We have books for all ages and activity bags in the back near the service bulletins for those who wish to stay with their families during the service. We also have the “Pew Pen” in the front of the church for those we need a little more space to move around.

Restrooms are located at the front of the church. Walk down the left aisle toward the door with the EXIT sign. Go through the door, and turn left. Men’s room is straight ahead, women’s to the right. If you prefer a gender neutral bathroom, please ask our ushers to show you where this is.

Masks: Masks are welcomed, encouraged and optional at this time. If you need a mask, please let us know and we will be happy to get one for you.

During **The Peace**, we invite you to connect with your neighbors by waving, showing the peace sign, or using fist/elbow bumps. Please be sure your neighbor is comfortable with physical contact before shaking hands.

Offering: You can give a financial gift to the church in three ways: by placing it in the plate that we pass in church today, by texting **CHT DONATE to 73256** or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).



Communion: All who are baptized in any Christian tradition are welcome to join us for communion (all ages are welcome). If you prefer a blessing, please let one of the clergy know. We will share the bread and wine at the altar rail at the front of the church. Gluten free wafers are available. If you are unable to come to the front, or prefer to stay in your pew and keep social distance, we will bring communion to you.

More Information? Join us at the **Welcome table in the back of the church** or visit our website www.htrit.org for more information about services and activities at The Church of the Holy Trinity and to sign up for the weekly E-News.

We ask that you **turn off or silence your Cell Phone** during the service. Thank you!

Welcome & Parish Notices

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 82

Divinum mysterium

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 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,
 prais - es sing; powers, 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
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen

Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria: Hymn 96

Gloria

¹ Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

² Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain:

³ Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain:

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

Andy Gutknecht

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night

 they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

 take no rest,

and give him no rest

 until he establishes Jerusalem

 and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

 and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

 to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

 for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it

 and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

 in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

 prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

 clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed

 to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

 "See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

 and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,

 The Redeemed of the Lord";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out,

 A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¹ Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

³ No more let sins and sorrows grow
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

² Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Frank LaMay

Reader A reading from Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 80

Von Himmel hoch



1 From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good
 2 to you this night is born a child of Ma - ry,
 3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
 4 The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds

news to ev - ery - one! Glad tid - ings of great
 chos - en vir - gin mild; this new - born child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
 in his in - fant hand, that in his king - dom

joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sa - vior be and from all sin will set you free.
 bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

The Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel procession, the people are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

After a period of silence, please stand for the Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People - Christmas Day

Ben Leiby

Leader Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you-that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Leader As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them.

People **Merciful God, hear our prayer**

Celebrant O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this season, and of our Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **Amen**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

You are invited to connect with your neighbors by waving, showing the peace sign, or using fist or elbow bumps. Following the Peace, the people are seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Anthem

Torches, Torches

John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!
Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling
While we sing you our Rorro

Sing, my friends, and make you merry
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and evermore. Amen
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and ever, evermore. Amen

Following the anthem, the People stand.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **AMEN.**

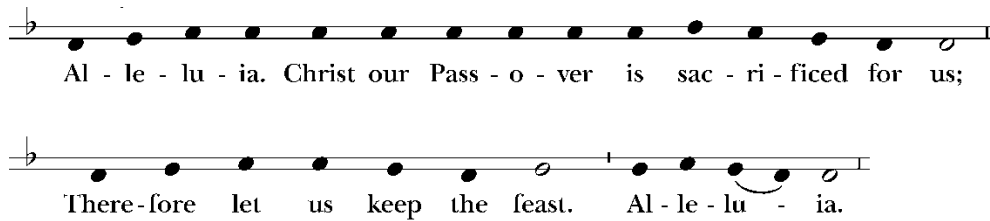
The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S 152



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion *for those not taking communion or joining online today*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

by St. Alphonsus de Liguori (1696-1787)ad,

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers to the rail at the front of the church. We will bring communion to those unable to come forward or who are more comfortable staying in their pew. If you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer a blessing, please let the priest know. Our healing team will be available to offer healing prayers during communion.

Communion Motet

Myn Lyking

R. R. Terry

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing.
She lulled a lyttel childe, a swete Lording.

Refrain:

Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweetling.
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;	There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth.
Of alle lordis he is Lord, of alle kynges Kyng.	All that were in heuently blisse they made mickle mirth.

Aungels bright sang their song to that chylde,
Blyssid be thou and so be sche so meke and so milde.



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Please stand as able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen

Dismissal Hymn 107

In dulci jubilo

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

Leo Sowerby

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TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Andy Gutknecht & Frank LaMay, *Lectors*

Ben Leiby, *Intercessor*

The Christmas flowers in the Church are offered to the glory of God...

In Memory of Gordon Henderson

by Maggie Mund

In Memory of Adam & Edna Cunningham

by Reaucheane Williams

In Memory of Jeannetta Drysdale Lee Burger & W. Atlee Burpee, Jr. & Anne Mitchell

by Murray Richards Richey

In Memory of Rose & Augustine Milano

by Joan Milano

In Honor of Loved Ones & In Memory of Friends

by Peg Mertz and Michael Lynagh

In Honor of our Children

by The Revs. John and Rachel Gardner

Church of the Holy Trinity, Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Donald R. Meineke, *Director of Music*

Fatimah Lane, *Director of Operations*

Ellen Miller, *Director of Communications*

Dr. Benjamin Leiby, *Associate Organist*

Karen Majer, *House Manager*

Demetrius Swinson, *Assistant to the Dir of Operations*

Barbara Holmes, Therese Tiger,

& Molly Hebert-Wilson, *Reception*

Nabayah Parker, *Child Care Worker*

Boyden Gardner, *Streaming Services*

Dr. John French, *Organist/Choirmaster emeritus*

Church of the Holy Trinity, Vestry

Simson Hui, *Rector's Warden*; Greg Maughan, *Accounting Warden*; Gail Caruso, *Clerk*

Phillip Duffy, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Susan Leidy, Martha Lipscomb, Nancy Rasmussen,

Ali Shott, & Emily Stromberg