

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

The First Sunday *after* Christmas

11:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



December 31, 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

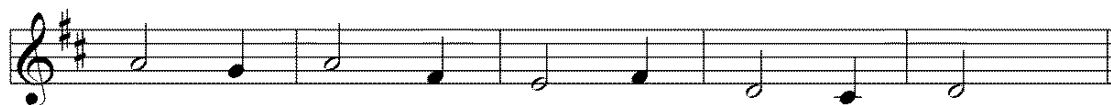
Entrance Hymn

Puer nobis

1 Greet, now, the swift - ly chang - ing year with joy and
 2 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; this Name of
 3 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the vol - ume
 4 "All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on
 5 God, Fa - ther, Son and Spir - it, praise and thank - ful



pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With thanks em -
 names for us he bore. Re - joice! Re - joice! With thanks em -
 of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With thanks em -
 earth!" the an - gels cry. Re - joice! Re - joice! With thanks em -
 songs through all our days. Up - on our lives a bless - ing



brace an - oth - er year of bound - less grace.
 brace an - oth - er year of bound - less grace.
 brace an - oth - er year of bound - less grace.
 brace an - oth - er year of bound - less grace.
 trace in this new year of bound - less grace.

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.**

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 poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

James Otwell

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147 *Laudate Dominum*

plainsong

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Reader A reading from Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Sequence Hymn



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!

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

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

And 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Shreve Simpson

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 your 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

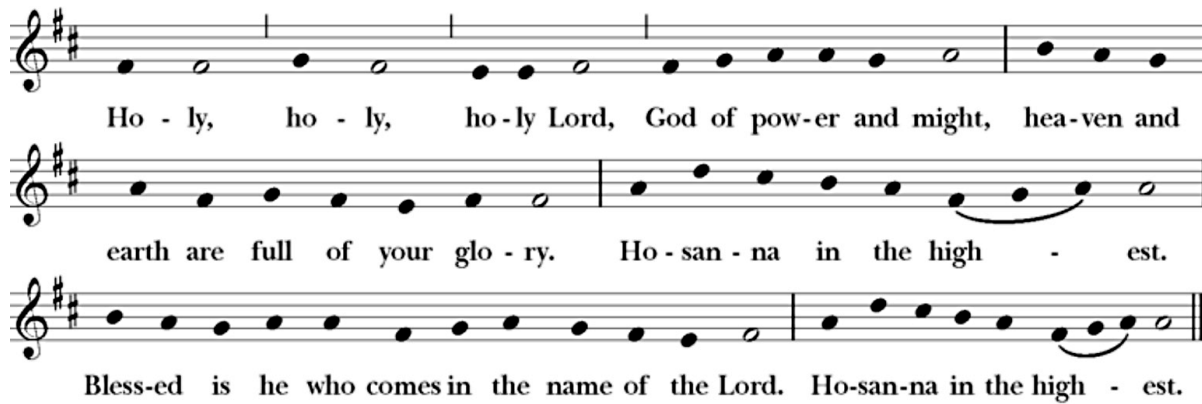
Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Sanctus S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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."

All Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
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

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

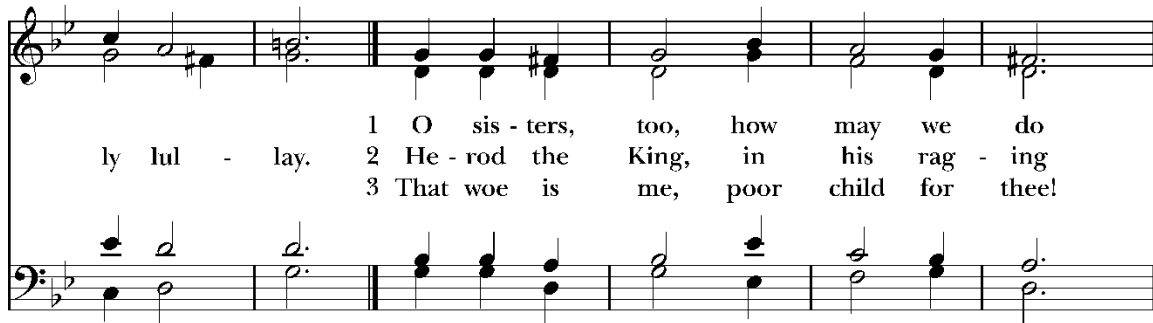
Communion Hymn 247

Coventry Carol

Burden



Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child, bye - bye, lul -

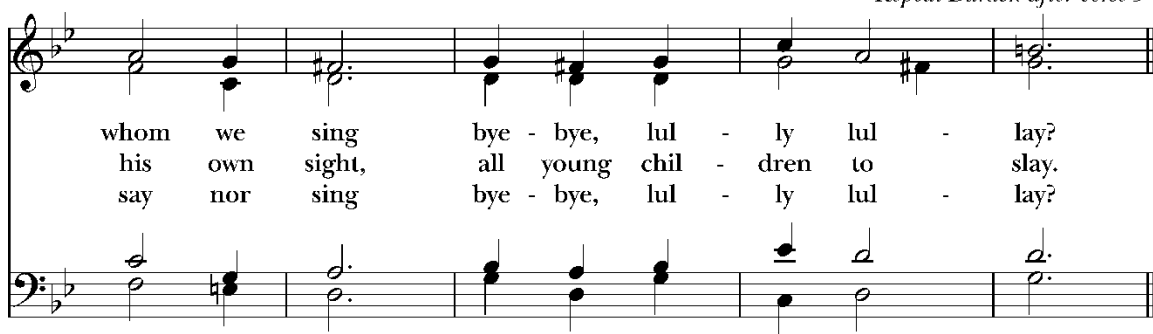


ly lul - lay. 1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do
2 He - rod the King, in his rag - ing
3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!



for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for
charg - ed he hath this day his men of might, in
And ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

Repeat Burden after verse 3



whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?
his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.
say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

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 92

Personent hodie


Introduction



1 On this day earth shall ring
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
3 God's bright star, o'er his head,
4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,
 Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

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TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

James Otwell & Jeannie Welsh, *Lectors*

Shreve Simpson, *Intercessor*

David Otwell, *Usher*

Nicholas Garza, *Countertenor*

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. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

Dr. John French, *Organist/Choirmaster emeritus*

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Brian Felty, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Alyson Harvey, Kate Nicole Hoffman, Samuel Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Amanda Staub, & Austin Stewart

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

**THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

