



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinitylutheran.ca

December 31, 2023
First Sunday in Christmas

Announcements

January 14 is picture day for the congregation. If you visit our website or social media channels, you'll notice a lot of pictures of the building. It's time for the internet to see what we look like. So, following the service, we'll take a congregational picture for use online.

Annual Congregational Meeting is tentatively set for February. The meeting is an opportunity for you to share your voice as Trinity and its ministry moves into the post-Covid world. As well, council elections will take place during the meeting. Council will set the date at its January 11 meeting.

January 28 Service will be one to mark Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday. This is a day set aside for congregations that have been designated as RIC congregations and those working toward such a designation (something being discerned by Trinity's council) to affirm their commitment to being communities that intentionally invite and welcome members of the 2S LGBTQIA+ community.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Margaret, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan.

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose

Introduction to the day

Today's service is one of Lessons & Carols. Such a service is part of the Christmas Season tradition in some congregations and services as a time of reflection and celebration.

Suggested Hymns

ELW # 283 Come all ye faithful

ELW #295, Of the Fathers Love
begotten

ELW #279, O little town of Bethlehem

ELW #296 What Child is this

ELW #278, Away in a Manger

ELW #289 Angels we have heard on high

ELW #288, Good Christian Friends

ELW #300, The First Noel

ELW #282, It Came Upon a Midnight
Clear
ELW #290, Go Tell it on the mountain

Prayer of the day

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever — the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

Lessons

Reading 1 - Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

Reading 2 - Exodus 6:2-7a

God also spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God

Almighty, but by my name “The LORD” I did not make myself known to them.

I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

Say therefore to the Israelites, “I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.

Reading 3 - Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall

kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around
his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his
loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling
together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the
hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge
of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand
as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Reading 4 - Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched
them out,
who spread out the earth and what
comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in
righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept
you;

I have given you as a covenant to the
people,^[a]
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to
pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reading 5 - Luke 1:68-79

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his
people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his
holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our
enemies and from the hand of all who
hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised
to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor
Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from
the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness
and righteousness
before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet
of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare

his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his
people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon
us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

Reading 6 - Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing
for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

Reading 7 - Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born
in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East
came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child
who has been born king of the Jews? For we

observed his star at its rising, and have come to
pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was
frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
and calling together all the chief priests
and scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be
born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of
Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise
men and learned from them the exact
time when the star had appeared. Then
he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go
and search diligently for the child; and
when you have found him, bring me
word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set
out; and there, ahead of them, went the
star that they had seen at its rising, until
it stopped over the place where the child
was. When they saw that the star had
stopped, they were overwhelmed with
joy. On entering the house, they saw the
child with Mary his mother; and they
knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.

Reading 8 - Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because
they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there.

And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world to fulfill our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

As we go in peace, may the blessing of the Ever-Present God be upon us, the power of the Risen Christ be within us, and the wisdom and gentleness of the Holy Spirit surround us and uplift us, both now and evermore.

Amen

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