



## Christmas Eve Candlelight — Love in Person

Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School 2950 Highway 55 Eagan, MN 55121  
Rev. James L. Kroonblawd, Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor  
651.454.7235 office@trinityloneoak.org trinityloneoak.org  
Mrs. Kathryn Jones, Principal 651.454.1139 schooletrinityloneoak.org tloschool.org

**AS WE GATHER**

Christmas is a celebration of love. Loving thoughts and deeds certainly are part of this holy season as goodwill among people seems more pronounced than at other times of the year. What is the source of that love? It is the love of God that is fully expressed in Christ Jesus, the babe in the manger. For centuries, hymn writers and poets have found meaningful ways of describing that love of God. A poem by English writer Christina Rossetti simply but beautifully shares the Gospel truth that blesses this season.

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign. (LW 46:1)

Through the words of gifted hymn writers and poets and the evangelists Luke and Matthew, we hear the angels and we see the star. Once again, the message of God's love echoes in our world!

**PRELUDE****SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

Tune by Franz Gruber  
Setting by Charles W. Ore  
Hannah Kroonblawd, flute  
**LSB 379, vs. 1, 2**

**HYMN****O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL****\*INVOCATION**

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
C **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P Declare His glory among the nations,  
C **His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!  
C **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

**\*HYMN****ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY****LSB 367, vs. 1****\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

P Almighty Father,

C **we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

C **Amen.**

## ANTHEM

## O HOLY NIGHT

French words by Placide Cappeau  
English words by John S. Dwight  
Music by Adolphe Adam  
*Elizabeth Frick, Soloist*

## PSALM

P I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

C **The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

C **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

P He will receive blessing from the LORD

C **and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

C **I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."**

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His

joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

**LSB 376, vs. 1, 2, 5**

## EPISTLE

*1 John 4:7–16*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GRADUAL

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the LORD a new song,

C **for He has done marvelous things!**

## **\*HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 1:18–21*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **\*NICENE CREED**

C **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

**HYMN**                **COME YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES RAISING**

**LSB 375, vs. 1, 4, 5, 6**

**SERMON**                                      **LOVE IN PERSON**

**\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

After our petitions:

- P Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING**

*Please complete a worship attendance card and place in the plate as it passes. Those who support this church and its ministry by giving electronically are invited to place the "I Give Online" cards located in each pew in the offering plate as a way of participating in this act of worship.*



**\*PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*PAX DOMINI**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION** Distribution is at the rail, with both common cup and individual cup; de-alcoholized wine in center of tray. Gluten free wafers available by signifying to pastor/elder. Please use the pew cards to register your attendance at Holy Communion.

**HYMN**  
**HYMN**  
**HYMN**

**WHERE SHEPHERDS LATELY KNELT**  
**AWAY IN A MANGER**  
**LET OUR GLADNESS HAVE NO END**

**LSB 369**  
**LSB 364**  
**LSB 381**

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*Pastor takes the light from the Christ candle for distribution to the congregation.*

**Caution: tip only unlit candles towards lit candles.**

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS**

## **SILENT NIGHT**

**LSB 363, vs. 1–3**

### **PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

C **Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

## HYMN TO DEPART

## JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387

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### Serving our Lord this evening

Officiant: Rev. James Kroonblawd

Elder: Bill Breitingner

Reader: Jim Kohn

Altar Guild: Sharon Drews and Nancy Strand

Organist: Diane Streich

Cantor: Dave Workman

Usher: Terry Stoerzinger

Live Stream: Jim Nicklas

Projectionist: Chris Martin



At Christmas time we join our voices with the angels, who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth on the first Christmas. Thanks to the following individuals for their musical leadership at TLO during Advent and Christmas: Instrumentalists, Hannah Kroonblawd, Caleb Morris, Tim Morris, and Phil Workman; vocalist, Elizabeth Frick; our faithful cantors, Andy Koch and Dave Workman; pianist, Marsha Workman; and organists, Merlin Simon and Diane Streich. To God alone be the glory!



### Devotions for you

Pick up devotions in the narthex and take one for a friend! "My Devotions" are geared for children. "Portals of Prayer", in both regular and large print, are geared for adults.



### Worship with Holy Communion Sunday, December 31 | 9:00\*am

Note there is only one worship service Sunday, December 31, 2023, and no Sunday school or adult Bible class.



### Sunday Worship Schedule beginning January 7, 2024

Worship —8:00\*am and 10:30am

Education Hour for all ages — 9:15am

\*Live stream at [www.trinityloneoak.org](http://www.trinityloneoak.org)