



God Appears – Light in the Darkness

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Visiting for the first time? Welcome! See back cover for visitor information.

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

It is at the darkest time of the year that we celebrate that “to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Tonight we remember “God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11). Jesus came into the darkness of our world, as He was born of Mary, to redeem us. God shines a great light on all who live in this land of deep darkness tonight to increase our joy. He is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the One who rules with justice and righteousness now and forever.

OPENING HYMN**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM****LSB 361, vs. 1–3*****INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCESIsaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8–9*

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**
- P There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
C **And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTIONLuke 2:10, 14*

- P Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,
C **we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.**
- P The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
C **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LSB 361, vs. 4

***SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for bringing salvation for all people. Train us as we wait for our blessed hope that will come when You appear again in glory at the end of the age; for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387, vs. 1

READING

Psalm 96:6-9

- A Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387, vs. 2

READING

Psalm 96:10-12a

- A Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387, vs. 3

READING

Psalm 96:12b-13

- A Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes,
for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in His faithfulness.

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387, vs. 4

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

***VERSE**

Luke 2:11

P Alleluia.

C **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

P Alleluia.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

LSB 383

SERMON

GOD APPEARS - LIGHT IN DARKNESS

***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 of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.
C **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ.
Alleluia!**
- P O Wonderful Counselor,
C **hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.**
- P O Mighty God,
C **give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.**
- P O Everlasting Father,

C **You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.**

P O Prince of Peace,

C **we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us.**

Silence for personal prayer.

P Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

*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.**

*PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, our Savior, Christ the Lord, for You shone Your light into our dark world to bring salvation for all people, giving Yourself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and sin and to make us a people for Your possession. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.

*SANCTUS — *Sung; tune on LSB 195*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P All glory, honor, and favor to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, for You have had mercy on this dark, sinful world and have appeared in it, bringing redemption for all people.

In the beginning, all was created by Your Word; then You were born of the virgin Mary and became God in the flesh. Shine the light of Your love on us this night so that, faithfully eating Your body and drinking Your blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and peace.

To You alone, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be all glory in the highest, for You rule and reign as one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

***PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

***LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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
forever and ever. Amen.**

***PAX DOMINI**

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

AGNUS DEI — *Sung; tune on LSB 178

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

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LSB 366

HYMN

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

LSB 370

***POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- P Let us pray.
On this night, a great Light has shined on us as the Child who was born. The Son who was given has welcomed us to His banquet feast, where we have eaten His body and drank His blood in, with, and under the bread and wine that was given and shed for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify us as a people for His own possession. Make us zealous for the good works that You have prepared beforehand that we should walk in them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle for distribution to the congregation.

- 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.**

HYMN

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

LSB 363

CLOSING SENTENCES

Luke 2:17

P Like the shepherds who were greeted by the angels, God has revealed the glory of the Lord to us.

C **And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.**

BENEDICTION

Romans 15:13

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

C **Amen.**

The Christmas candles are extinguished. Please return them to the bins as you exit.

HYMN TO DEPART

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

LSB 368

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving our Lord today	
Pastor	Rev. James Kroonblawd
Musician	Merlin Simon
Cantor	Dave Workman
Altar Guild	Sharon Drews and Nancy Strand
Elders	Sam Erdman and Bill Breitingner
Reader	Keith Prusak
Usher Team	Sam Erdman
Projection	Jean Peterson
Live Stream	Jim Nicklas



“Let all together praise our God before His glorious throne; today He opens heav’n again to give us His own Son.” (LSB 389) During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we lift our hearts and voices, praising God for the gift of his Son, our Savior. Thanks to the following musicians who glorified God with their talents at our worship services: Andy Koch, Lynn Kroonblawd, Éowyn Prusak, Keith Prusak, Merlin Simon, Diane Streich, Dave Workman, and Marsha Workman.



Calendars, directories and offering envelopes
 Stop by the table in the narthex to pick up your items for 2026: calendars, church phone book, and offering envelopes. By the way, if you want a box of envelopes and don’t see one for you, contact the church office and we’ll get you set up for 2026.



Welcome Guests We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our team. We love to make new friends!

For those with small children, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children's bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

Large print copies of the worship folder are available. Please ask an usher.

At this service we celebrate Holy Communion. Please speak with our pastor or an elder before communing if this is your first time receiving the Lord's Supper at TLO. The light-colored wine in the center of the individual communion tray is de-alcoholized wine, where the alcohol is reduced to .05%.

Trinity Lone Oak welcomes you to worship with us anytime:
Sundays

- Worship at 8:00am and 10:30am.
- The services are identical.
- Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays.
- Education hour for ages 3 through adult from 9:15-10:15am

Note: One service only at 9:00am on Sunday, December 28

