

# God fulfills His Promises

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,  
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,  
9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,  
10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon,  
Amon the father of Josiah,  
11 Josiah the father of Jechoniah,  
Jechoniah the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
12 After the exile to Babylon:  
Zerubbabel the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,  
Abihud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
14 Azor the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Akim,  
Akim the father of Elihud,  
15 Elihud the father of Eleazar,  
18 This is how the birth of Jesus the  
Messiah came about. His mother  
Mary was pledged to be married to  
Joseph, but before they came together,  
she was found to be pregnant  
by the Holy Spirit. 19 Because  
her husband was faithful to  
the law, and yet[e] did not want to  
expose her to public disgrace, he had  
in mind to divorce her quietly.  
20 After he had considered this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him  
in a dream and said, "Joseph son of  
David, do not be afraid to take Mary  
home as your wife, because what is  
conceived in her is from the Holy  
Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name  
Jesus, because he will save his people  
from their sins."  
22 All this took place to fulfill what  
the Lord had said through the  
prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive  
and give birth to a son, and he will  
be called Immanuel."

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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**AS WE GATHER**

The original title of the Christmas carol "In dulci jubilo" (LSB 386, "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice") was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as "In Quiet Joy." Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words "How silently the wondrous gift is given!" (LSB 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord's activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God's ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

**PRESERVICE****Silent Night, Holy Night****arranged by Charles Ore***Hannah Kroonblawd, flute***OPENING HYMN****NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE****LSB 386**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Now sing we, now rejoice,<br/>Now raise to heav'n our voice;<br/>    He from whom joy streameth<br/>Poor in a manger lies;<br/>    Not so brightly beameth<br/>The sun in yonder skies.<br/>    Thou my Savior art!<br/>    Thou my Savior art!</p> <p>2 Come from on high to me;<br/>I cannot rise to Thee.<br/>    Cheer my wearied spirit,<br/>O pure and holy Child;<br/>    Through Thy grace and merit,<br/>Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,<br/>    Draw me unto Thee!<br/>    Draw me unto Thee!</p> | <p>3 Now through His Son doth shine<br/>The Father's grace divine.<br/>    Death was reigning o'er us<br/>Through sin and vanity<br/>    Till He opened for us<br/>A bright eternity.<br/>    May we praise Him there!<br/>    May we praise Him there!</p> <p>4 Oh, where shall joy be found?<br/>Where but on heav'nly ground?<br/>    Where the angels singing<br/>With all His saints unite,<br/>    Sweetest praises bringing<br/>In heav'nly joy and light.<br/>    Oh, that we were there!<br/>    Oh, that we were there!</p> |
|---|---|

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**\*INVOCATION**

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

**\*OPENING SENTENCES***Habakkuk 2:20*

- P In dulci jubilo! In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.  
C **The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.**

P We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,  
C **in quiet joy.**

P We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,  
C **in quiet joy.**

P God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;  
C **let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

### **\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Holy and gracious God,  
C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

*Silence for reflection.*

P In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.  
C **Amen.**

### **\*KYRIE (VERSE FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME)**

P O Jesus, Prince of Glory, draw us to Thee.

C **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.

C **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.**

### **\*SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## HYMN

## IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LSB 366

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 It came upon the midnight clear,<br>That glorious song of old,<br>From angels bending near the earth<br>To touch their harps of gold:<br>"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,<br>From heav'n's all-gracious king."<br>The world in solemn stillness lay<br>To hear the angels sing. | 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,<br>By care and guilt bent low,<br>Who toil along a dreary way<br>With painful steps and slow:<br>Look up, for golden is the hour,<br>Come swiftly on the wing,<br>The Prince was born to bring you peace;<br>Of Him the angels sing.           |
| 2 Still through the cloven skies they come<br>With peaceful wings unfurled,<br>And still their heav'nly music floats<br>O'er all the weary world.<br>Above its sad and lowly plains<br>They bend on hov'ring wing,<br>And ever o'er its babel sounds<br>The blessèd angels sing.       | 4 For lo, the days have come to pass<br>By prophets seen of old,<br>When down into the circling years<br>Came Christ as was foretold.<br>His word of peace shall to the earth<br>God's ancient promise bring,<br>And all who take this gift will hear<br>The song the angels sing. |

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;



Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN

## LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

LSB 359

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

Text: Public domain

## SERMON

## GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES

### \*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.

### OFFERING

*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.*

### \*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

## \*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

### \*SANCTUS—*sung tune LSB 208*

- C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## \*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.**

## \*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### \*PAX DOMINI

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

### \*AGNUS DEI—*sung tune LSB 210*

**1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**



**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.

<b>HYMN</b>	<b>LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE</b>	<b>LSB 621</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b>INFANT LOWLY, INFANT HOLY</b>	<b>LSB 393</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b>O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM</b>	<b>LSB 361</b>

**\*NUNC DIMITTIS** —*sung tune LSB 211*

**1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**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.**

## HYMN

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

LSB 363, vs. 1–3

1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;**

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

C **Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## HYMN TO DEPART

## JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387

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.

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.

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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### Serving our Lord

Officiant	Rev. James Kroonblawd
Musician	Diane Streich
Cantor	Dave Workman
Altar Guild	Nancy Strand
Elder	Sam Erdman
Reader	Keith Prusak
Usher Team	Terry Stoerzinger
Greeter	Lynn Kroonblawd
Acolyte	Open
Projection	Jim Nicklas
Live Stream	Jim Nicklas





## 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 pastor, a greeter or an usher. 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.

**Today 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%.



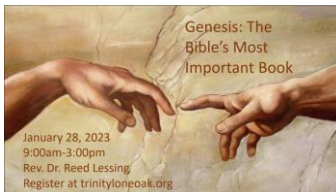
## “Wise Men Seek the Savior” — Christmas Activities for Families Wednesday, December 28 | 2:00-4:00pm

Through child-friendly stations, parents and children share in the joy of the season and in the truth of a King and Savior born for them. Bring the young ones in your life to this casual event! Registrations helpful, but not required, on the website or with the church office.



## Worship Sunday, January 1 | 9:00am

Note there is only one worship service Sunday, January 1, 9:00am. While there is no Sunday school, Pastor Lessing will be teaching Bible class at 10:00am that’s suitable for any learner! Bring Christmas cookies if you have them, and join the study!



## Bible Seminar at TLO

**January 28, 2023 | 9am - 3pm**

Pastor Lessing leads our annual Bible seminar. This year’s title is “Genesis: The most important book.” Lunch is included. Register with the church office or at [trinityloneoak.org](http://trinityloneoak.org).