



## **CHRISTMAS EVE CHORAL VESPERS 2012**

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
Waukesha, WI**



“I say that even if we received nothing more than the glory that God has become a human being, that would be a great boast. God is my brother; that is greater than all the glory of kings! If I am glad to see the sun shine even if I am shut up in prison; how much more should I rejoice that God has been made man.”

Dr. Martin Luther, *Sermon for Christmas Vespers 1544*



# Christmas Eve Choral Vespers

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Waukesha, WI

December 24, 2012  
4:30 p.m.

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## WELCOME TO TRINITY

Christ is born - born for you! That's the best news that human ears have ever heard. That is the Good News - the *Gospel* news - that we will hear, pray, and sing about this evening. May Jesus bless you with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

## NOTES ON THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

For almost 2,000 years, Christians have gathered together at sundown to celebrate Christ, the Light who shines in the world's darkness. By the 600's AD, the church had developed a specific order of service for this purpose. It soon became known as "Vespers" (the word *Vespers* comes from the Latin word *vesper* meaning "evening"). In the Lutheran Church, Vespers is used both in schools and churches for an order of evening worship, especially on high festivals like Christmas Eve.

*"Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light" (Micah 7:8).*



# ORDER OF SERVICE

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## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*Cynthia Dobrinski*

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Felix Mendelssohn*

## A Babe Is Born In Bethlehem

*J. S. Bach*



## OPENING HYMN

## Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Christian Worship 55

*Please stand as soon as the bells begin to ring.*

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## VERSICLES



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE<sup>1</sup>

To be sung as follows: v.1 – All; v.2 – Men; v.3 – Women; v.4 – All; All sing every “Gloria.”



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing  
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the  
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply  
 strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be,  
 an - gels sing; Come a - dore, on bend - ed knee,  
 an - gels praise; Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid,



Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.  
 Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 While our hearts in love we raise.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

<sup>1</sup> *Gloria in excelsis Deo* is Latin for “Glory be to God on High.” This is the song of the Christmas angels.

## THE PRAYERS

M: Let us pray.

Lord of love, Father of all, the darkness of sin that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of your light. Keep us faithful to your holy Word, that we may bring the light of your Son to this dark world. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

### PSALM OF THE DAY

### Psalm 96

*James J. Chepponis*



Choir: Refrain

C: **Refrain**

Choir: O sing to the Lord a new song; O sing to the Lord, all you lands. O sing to the Lord, and bless God's name.

C: **Refrain**

Choir: Announce his salvation each day, his glory among all nations; among all people his wondrous deeds.

C: **Refrain**

Choir: Let heaven and earth rejoice; let seas and what fills them resound; let plains be joyful and all therein, the trees exult.

C: **Refrain**

Choir: Exult in the Lord, who comes, who comes to rule the earth, to rule the world with justice, the nations with truth.

C: **Refrain**

*Silence for personal prayer and meditation*

M: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus, by your gracious coming into the world you destroyed death and made all things new. Grant that we may never tire of proclaiming your salvation to the ends of the earth; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV84)**

*Light dawns for sinners struggling in the darkness of sin.*



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

### CHORAL RESPONSE

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

*David Haas*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As seers of old have sung.  
It came, a flowret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas fortold 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.



O Flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death now save us,  
And share our ev'ry load.

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 2:1-20 (NIV84)**

*St. Luke tells the history of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.<sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register.<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



ANTHEM

Gloria in D-Major

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis deo!  
"Glory be to God on high"

HYMN OF THE DAY

All My Heart Again Rejoices

Kevin Hildebrand



All: All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
Men: Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
Choir: *Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave*  
Women: See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
*His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en*  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
*His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.*  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

Choir:  
*Softly from His lowly manger*  
*Jesus calls*  
*One and all,*  
*"You are safe from danger.*  
*Children, from the sins that grieve you*  
*You are freed;*  
*All you need*  
*I will surely give you."*

All:  
Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

## **Christ Puts the Merry In Christmas**

SERMON HYMN

**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**  
Christian Worship 38 v. 13-15

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.**

**My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:**

**Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

### **THE GATHERING OF OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Please take a moment during the collection of the offering to sign the Friendship Register in each of the pews. We encourage you to take a moment after the service to get to know those seated around you!

If you are not a member of Trinity Lutheran, we do not want you to feel obligated to give an offering. Only give something if you are moved to do so cheerfully and joyfully. We gather our offerings in church, *because the Bible teaches that giving is an act of worship*. The vast majority of our church and school ministry is carried out by what is given at our worship services. May the Lord bless you! And may he use our gifts and offerings to be a blessing to many others.

MUSICAL OFFERING

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER**

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

**C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

**C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

**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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

**HYMN**

**Silent Night**  
Christian Worship 60

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.

*Stand*

**BLESSING**

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
Christian Worship 61  
*Michael Burkhardt*

*See next page*

**POSTLUDE**

**Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"**  
*Michael G. Dell*

To be sung as follows: v.1 - All; v.2 - Choir; v.3 - All

*Unison:* 1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King; Peace on earth and  
*Harmony:* 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord, Late in time be -  
*Unison:* 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness! Light and life to

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,  
 hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see,  
 all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by,

Join the tri - umph of the skies; With th'an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in  
 Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em -  
 Born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us

Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"  
 man - u - el. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"  
 sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, *alt.* (PD).

Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47 (PD).

Music: Newly composed in an arrangement by Michael Burkhardt. Arrangement copyright © 2008 with this publication.

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## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

**PRESIDING MINISTERS** Pastor Lawrence R. Gates  
Pastor Scott T. Oelhafen

**PREACHER** Pastor Aaron L. Christie

**CHOIRS** Trinity Mixed Choir  
Trinity Handbell Choir

**TRINITY ROYAL BRASS** Trumpet - Rod Clouser  
Trombone - Tim Pederson, Jackson Fischer  
Euphonium - Rick Backhaus  
French Horn - Sami Clouser, Rhea Geshke

**ORGANIST** Mark D. Davidson



# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



December 24	10:00 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight Service
<i>A quiet and meditative experience - completely different from the 4:30 p.m. service.</i>		
December 25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Morning Communion Service
December 29	No Saturday Service	(See New Year's Eve)
December 30	7:45 a.m. + 9:00 a.m. + 10:45 a.m.	The First Sunday after Christmas
December 31	5:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Communion Service
January 5-6	5:30 p.m. (Saturday) + 7:45 a.m. + 9:00 a.m. + 10:45 a.m.	The Festival of the Epiphany Mission Festival

## **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, School, and Childcare**

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Rev. Larry Gates  
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Senior Ministry and Visitation  
Outreach and Spiritual Nurture  
Principal

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