

*THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS EVE*

# **"It's a Wonderful Life"**

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND



3:30PM & 5PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 IN THE SANCTUARY  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS EVE

# "It's a Wonderful Life"

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**AS WE GATHER** The wonder of the Christ child, is wonderful for us! Who ever heard of God coming down to be incarnated. That's a hard thing for many people to accept, but it's true: God became man. That the Christ came for sinners, no matter how bad, or unkind, or evil is also a hard thing to accept, but it is his glory that even the worst of the worst have forgiveness of sins. This Jesus the Christ, who we celebrate today, brings forgiveness and with it a life of wonder and joy. This is the greatest blessing of all, that Christ was born this night.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Held*

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

*Biery*

*JuBellation Handbells—*

"Christmas Angels"

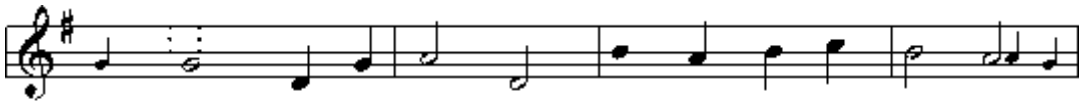
*Helman*

## RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes:  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee— be— glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God— In— the— high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**  
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

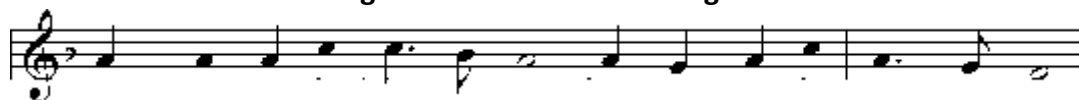
*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**  
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

# HYMN

## "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains.  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

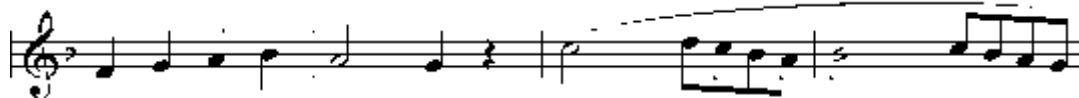


And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -



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

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## SANCTUARY CHOIR

"Pacem"

Dengler

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

### “Holy Forever (Christmas)”

*(Abridged)*

*Johnson/Davenport/Tomlin/Ingram/Johnson/Wickham*

Held within a manger, The Son of God arrived,  
The one who would be called Emmanuel.  
The promise was delivered Unto a virgin bride,  
The one who would be called Emmanuel.

Your name is the highest. Your name is the greatest.  
Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions,  
All powers and positions, Your name stands above them all.

*Chorus:* And the angels cry, “Holy.” All creation cries, “Holy.”  
You are lifted high, holy, Holy forever.

In the humble town of David A Savior born today,  
The one who would be called Emmanuel.  
Behold the host of heaven With holy roar proclaim  
The one who would be called Emmanuel.  
The Messiah, our God is with us now. *(Chorus)*

Hear Your people sing, “Holy,” To the King of kings, “Holy.”  
You will always be holy, Holy forever. You will always be holy, Holy forever.

Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7249209 © 2024 Brian and Jenn Publishing; Capitol CMG Paragon; CDaves Music; S. D. G. Publishing; Songs For TIM; Be Essential Songs; My Magnolia Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs; Bethel Music Publishing; Remaining portion is unaffiliated For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #284825

## EPISTLE

*1 John 4:7-16*

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA

LSB 190



## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

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." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380



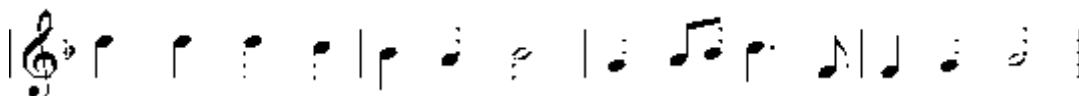
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing. "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteous-ness!



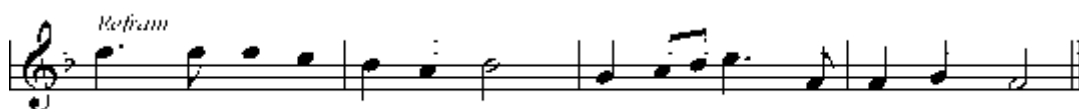
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise. Join the tri - umph of the skies:  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die.



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing. "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

## SERMON

"It's a Wonderful Life"

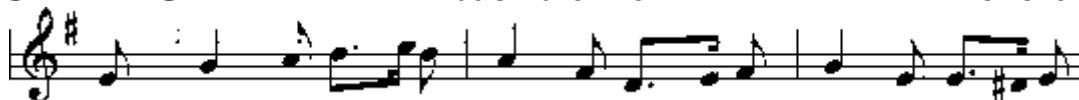
Rev. James L. Mayland

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERING HYMN

"What Child Is This"

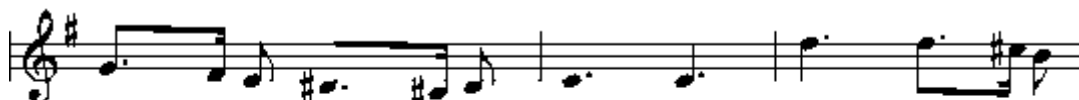
LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest. On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(After each petition, the following is said...)*

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



# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

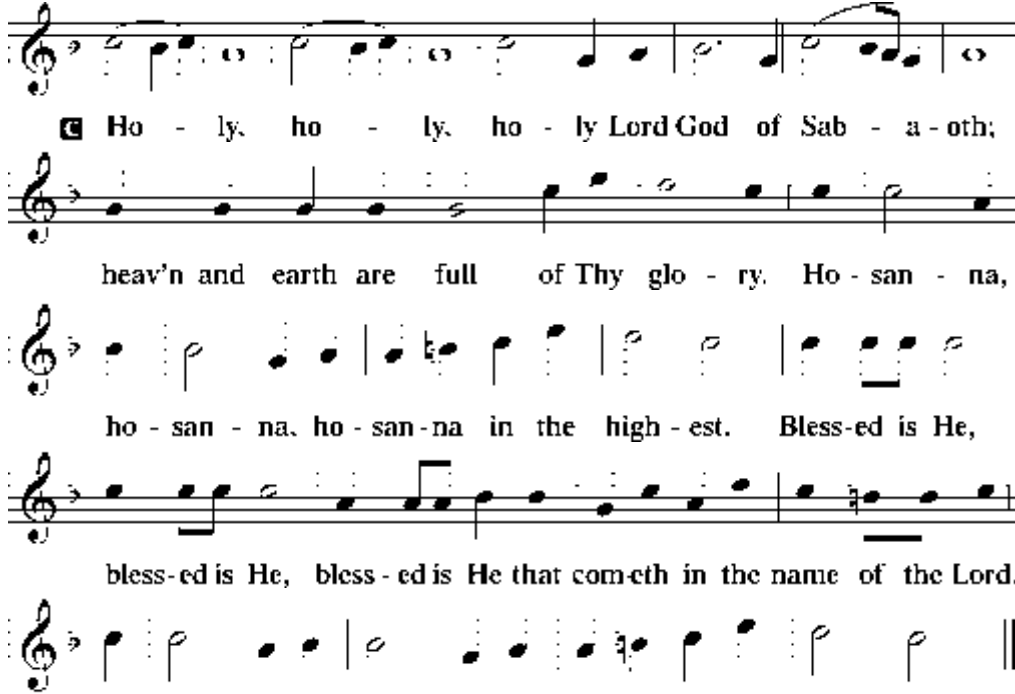
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PAX DOMINI

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

### AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord’s Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior’s body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.*

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC AND DISTRIBUTION HYMN

### “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Mohr/Gruber; LSB 363

Choir: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

ALL:

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
peace, born! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! birth, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text and tune: Public domain

## DISTRIBUTION SONG “Manger Throne”

Wickham/Wood/Smith

You could have stepped into creation With fire for all to see,  
Brought every tribe and nation to their knees,  
Arriving with the host of heaven In royal robe and crown,  
The rulers of the earth all bowing down.  
But You chose meekness over majesty, Wrapped Your power in humanity.

*Chorus:* Glory be to You alone, King who reigns from a manger throne.

My life, my praise, everything I own To Jesus, the King on a manger throne.

You could have marched in all Your glory Into the heart of Rome,  
Showed them splendor like they'd never known. But You wrote a better story  
In humble Bethlehem, Creator in the arms of common men.

You will die for our redemption, And You'll rise so we can live. *(Chorus)*

From heaven to the cradle, From cradle to the cross,  
Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King." But the grave couldn't hold Him;  
Our God has overcome. Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King." *(Repeat)*

All hail the King. *(Repeat x2) (Chorus)*

My life, my praise, everything I own To Jesus, the King on a manger throne,  
To Jesus, the King on a manger throne.

Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Tony Wood CCLI Song #7226106 © Mike Curb Music; Tony Wood Songs; Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #284825

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Away in a Manger"**

*LSB 364*

## **DISMISSAL AND THANKSGIVING**

*LSB 200*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

## **BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION**

*LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### “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: Public domain

## POSTLUDE

### “Joy to the World”

Langlois & Burkhardt

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Peter C. Williamson, Associate Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Rod Riese*

MUSICIANS: *Sanctuary Choir, Kyle Wiskow, director;*

*JuBellation Handbells, Rod Riese, director;*

*Praise Team, Brett Schwantes, lead & guitarist; Holly Lutz, violinist;*

*Carla Schwantes, pianist; Glenn Marquardt, trumpeter*

ELDERS: 3:30pm—*Bob Zimmerman, Tim Rock; 5pm—Dan Schwantes, Todd Hauer*

ACOLYTES: 3:30pm—*Jackson Kramer*

## WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

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**TRADITIONAL/BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—**  
7:30am & 9am Sunday  
**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—**  
5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

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- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

### Automated Giving Options



### MISSION & VISION STATEMENT:

*Teach the Faith—Love the Lost—Connect all to Christ*



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