



DECEMBER 24, 2009 ☩ 10:30 P.M.

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
THE CHRIST MASS**



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

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Wed., 1 – 8 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity! Wherever you are in your spiritual life and/or in your process of being comfortable in church or finding a church home, you are welcome here!

PARKING is available at McDonald's, Clark and Addison, on Sunday mornings when you are unable to find street parking. Please use the spaces in the southwest corner (near Addison and the alley). Pick up a permit at the back of Holy Trinity that you can keep in your car. Please **do not** use the lot on days of Cubs home games or you will be towed. (383 neighborhood parking permits are only needed from 6 pm – 6 am.)

Podcast of last week's sermon is available on our website.

Interested in membership? We would be delighted to have you join our community of faith in worship and ministry. New member orientation sessions are held throughout the year. Watch the bulletin or see our website for more information.

Silence. In addition to words and music our liturgy has several periods of silence. The resonance of the meditation bell calls us to a time of reflection and centering.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Adults or children not communing may come forward for a blessing.

The Spiritual Life Center has offices at Holy Trinity, offering counseling and spiritual direction. Brochures are available at the back of the church.

A Blessed Christmas to All

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before the liturgy begins.

* – those who are able may **stand**

Bold – all

This bulletin is available in large print

GATHERING

PRELUDE – *Geistliches Wiegenlied*

Johannes Brahms

(from *Three Songs for Alto, Viola and Piano, Op. 91*)

You who hover
Around these palms
In night and wind,
You holy angels,
Silence the treetops,
My child is sleeping.

You palms of Bethlehem
In the roaring wind,
How can you today
Bluster so angrily!
O roar not so!
Be still, bow
Softly and gently;
Silence the treetops!
My child is sleeping.

The child of heaven
Endures the discomfort,
Oh, how tired he has become
Of earthly sorrow.
Oh, now in sleep,
Gently softened,
His pain fades,
Silence the treetops!
My child is sleeping.

Fierce cold
Comes rushing,
How shall I cover
The little child's limbs?
O all you angels,
You winged ones
Wandering in the wind.
Silence the treetops!
My child is sleeping.
(Translation by Lawrence Snyder & Rebecca Plack),

Magnificat
(Text at Hymn #234)

Healey Willan

Stand as the procession enters.

*PROCESSION TO THE CRÈCHE – #272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**1. 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 flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**2. Isaiah had 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.**

GOSPEL AT THE CRÈCHE: Luke 2:1-14

**3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fill the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
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 into endless day.**

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

The light shines in | the darkness,
and the darkness has not o - | vercome it.
The word became flesh and lived | among us,
and we have beheld | Christ's glory.
To us a child is born, to us a Son | is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of | all people.

*PROCESSION – #283 *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful*

You may bow as the cross passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation.

**1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**2. The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain***

**4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The presiding minister bows toward the assembly which is the body of Christ and the primary symbol of God's presence in the liturgy.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

*Choir: All glory be to God on high, and peace to earth be given!
Let angels sing, let all reply; goodwill breaks forth from heaven!
Lord God Almighty, heaven's king, we worship you, our thanks we sing,
we praise you for your glory.*

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 – #267 *Joy to the World*

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand to welcome the gospel and turn to face the book as the gospel is read in the midst of the assembly.

Choir: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

*GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

The holy gospel according to St. John.

As the gospel is announced you may trace a small cross on your forehead, lips and breast, a prayer that the Word may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

SERMON

SILENCE

HYMN OF THE DAY – *A Stable Lamp is Lighted*



Choir:	1	A	sta - ble lamp is light - ed	Whose
Women:	2	(This)	child through Da - vid's ci - ty	Shall
Men:	3	(Yet)	he shall be for - sak - en, And	
All:	4	(But)	now, as at the end - ing,	The



glow shall wake the sky;	The stars shall bend their voic - es,
ride in tri - umph by;	The palm shall strew its branch - es,
yield - ed up to die;	The sky shall groan and dark - en,
low is lift - ed high;	The stars shall bend their voic - es,

And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry;
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,

And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us

A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____

Final Ending

Words: © Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)
 Music: *Andújar*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 76

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words

MEAL

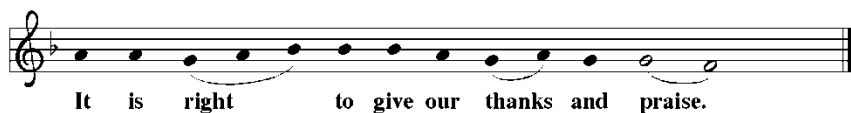
GATHERING OF GIFTS AND SETTING THE TABLE

As a sign of Christ's coming the altar, bread, wine and assembly are honored with incense. Please stand when the thurifer approaches the assembly.

Guests are invited to fill out the yellow slip and place it in the offering plate.

HYMN – #295 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The following acclamations are sung during the thanksgiving.





san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



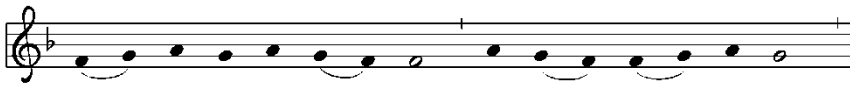
Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

As a sign of openness to the divine presence, you may join the presider in praying the Our Father with the ancient gesture of extended hands.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Christ is the true bread that has come down from heaven,
Emmanuel, God with us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

remain standing – st. 3 & 4 Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, next page

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

COMMUNION

Be seated.

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Others may come forward for a blessing. Communion will be by continuous line, and the bread will be placed in your hand (gluten-free wafers available from the pastor). The first (silver) chalice on each side is a common cup for drinking. The second chalice is for intinction (dipping the bread into the wine). Reception of the eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.

CHOIR Anthem – *In the bleak midwinter*

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What shall I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

(Text: Christina Rossetti)

SILENCE

*PRAYER

SENDING

*BLESSING

Turn to face the cross as it recesses, you may bow as it passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation

*SENDING HYMN – *Silent Night*

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 your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

*SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – *In dulci jubilo*

J. S. Bach

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SERVING TODAY

ASSISTING MINISTER: Ryan LaHurd

READERS: Carol LaHurd, Kristi Harreld

THURIFER: Joel Cruz

CRUCIFER: Tom Braham

TORCHBEARERS: Justin and Forrest Stewart

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Ben Stewart, Carol LaHurd

USHERS: Patrice Macken, Scott Russell

PARISH NOTES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Music for Brass and Organ

Sunday, January 17, 2010, 4:00 p.m

Featuring the Artemis Brass and David Brackley, organ

ANNOUNCING NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY

If you are free during the day you are invited to participate in a scripture study of Luke, the gospel read in worship this year. Pastor Mueller will be leading the sessions which will be held Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 14, 2010. There will be approximately 14 sessions but the schedule is flexible and we will cancel on days on days with snow or extreme cold. An optional “resource book” is available for \$20. You can browse a copy and/or sign-up at the back of the church. Feel free to talk to Pastor Mueller if you have any questions or concerns.

FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR! See the flower signup sheet at the back of the church and write a check to Holy Trinity for \$32 with “flowers” in the memo line or give through our online giving found at our website.

NEXT BAPTISM DATE: January 10, 2010. See information brochure in the narthex.

NEXT NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION DATES: January 31, April 18, 2010. More info at our website: www.holytrinitychicago.org

INCENSE IN WORSHIP

The use of incense in worship has a long history in both Judaism and Christianity. Incense is used to add a festive accompaniment to processions, creating “holy clouds” and “holy smells” in the air.

The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification, and the sweet smell suggests the sweetness of Christ’s robe of righteousness that covers our sin. Incense is sometimes used to honor holy things and holy people (the assembly, that is, the body of Christ). The altar, the bread and wine, the ministers and the congregation may be “censed” as a way of showing their importance in the liturgy.

Incense is also important because it incorporates the sense of smell in our worship. Our liturgy involves all our senses, showing the significance of our bodies and all of God’s creation. We take seriously the incarnation--as God came among us in Jesus Christ all of our humanity is made holy. The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers and stained glass can lead us to ponder the mystery of God’s presence. As catholic Christians we rejoice that we can incorporate the richness of the Church’s tradition in many forms, and thus feel connected to the Church around the world and through the ages.

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

One service at 10:30 a.m.

No 8:30 a.m. service, Sunday School or Sunday Forum

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00 p.m. Carol Sing and Simple Eucharist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

8:30 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (no Adult Forum)

10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist with Lessons and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany