

*The Gospel of John tells us  
that Jesus came to dwell with His people.*

*He was born as our Savior.*

*He died as our Redeemer.*

*Now He feeds us  
with His body and blood in this...*



**Christmas Day  
December 25, 2020**

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

553 Ashmoor Avenue

Bowling Green, KY 42101

Office # (270) 843-9595

Fax # (270) 843-7466

[www.holytrinity-lc.org](http://www.holytrinity-lc.org)

The Sermons are archived on our website.  
Check it out if you want to revisit the message.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Transformation Station & Bible Classes: 9:15 a.m.**



*Merry Christmas!*

*We gather to worship the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.*

**TO OUR VISITORS:** We are delighted that you have joined us today.

We pray that the service blesses you and invite you to worship with us again. If you are seeking a church family or would like to know more about Holy Trinity, please contact the Church Office at (270) 843-9595. We are here to serve you. Please use the attendance insert to provide your **Email, mailing address and phone number** so that we might extend a special welcome.

## **HOLY COMMUNION GUESTS**

**AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER** you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that with Lutheran Christians you believe His Body and Blood are present, and you desire to serve Him as a dynamic disciple in the fellowship of the Church.

Please review the following questions while preparing for the Lord's Supper.

- 1) Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
- 2) Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- 3) Do I believe that in this Sacrament I will receive Christ's true Body and true Blood in and with the bread and wine?
- 4) Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life?

Please speak to the pastor if you have any special communion needs.

**A NURSERY** is available for infants up to children starting Kindergarten.

Exit the sanctuary to the rear, and follow the hallway to the left, then turn at the first hall way to the right. Parents are welcome to worship with their children, but please use the nursery as needed. If you have any questions regarding the nursery please contact Laurie Seavey at (270) 991-1172.

**NOTE:** There is also a "nursing/cry room" just before the hallway to the nursery.

## **CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, deacons, readers, acolytes, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

**TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing. Please welcome all children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**WORSHIP BAGS** for our young worshipers are located in the Narthex. Please use these as needed during worship.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the Ushers.**

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2020

## AS WE GATHER

It's Christmas morning, a day of celebration. It's Christmas, a time of joy. How God's people love to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!" Isaiah says that there is joy for God's people, for the Savior has come and He has brought His reward with Him. That reward is forgiveness, holiness, and a right standing before God the Father for everyone who believes in this Infant who came to buy us back from sin and Satan with His own blood. Our prayer today is that His name will be raised up as a banner for all nations.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: Silence/Turn Off your cell phone** as you come into the Sanctuary to worship the Lord. While you are silencing your phone, we encourage you to 'check in' on Facebook that you are with us today. Thank you.

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING



## THE OPENING HYMN

L.S.B. #387

"Joy to the World"  
Isaac Watts & George F. Handel

- 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.**

## THE INVOCATION

**Liturgist:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Liturgist: O heavenly Father, on this day of great joy, we acknowledge before You our deep sorrow and grief. We are the reason Your Son came into this world of ours to suffer and die for our salvation.

**People: O Father, on account of our sin, we deserve Your anger, we deserve to be deserted eternally.**

Liturgist: Lord God, hear our silent confession of our sins that made it necessary for You to send Your Son.

*(Silent reflection and confession.)*

Pastor: Our Savior has come! We are not deserted. He sought us out and has found us. He has redeemed us and has bought us from the one who controlled us, Satan himself. Jesus has made us His own. In Jesus Christ, God the Father has forgiven you. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore announce the forgiveness of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free, who through sin are held in bondage; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from the 52<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## THE EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-12

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Hebrews.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

*“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?*

Or again,

*“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?*

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

*“Let all God's angels worship him.”*

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

*“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”*

(CONTINUED)

(8)

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.*

<sup>9</sup> *You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

<sup>10</sup> And,

*“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;*

<sup>11</sup> *they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,*

<sup>12</sup> *like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.*

*But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”*

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**



"What Child Is This"

William C. Dix

1. **What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.**

3. **So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**



Please stand for  
**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:15-20**

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

<sup>15</sup> When 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." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN OF RESPONSE**

L.S.B. #380

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelssohn

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**(CONTINUED)**

**3. 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

L.S.B. Page 159

**All: 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 everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE CHRISTMAS PRAYERS**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**All:** 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 SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

L.S.B. Page 161

### THE PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, 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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19 & 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Pastor: 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 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

*John 20:19*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: Amen.

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God the Father, the Fountain and Source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children, but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## THE SERMON HYMN

L.S.B. #379

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

John F. Wade

**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:**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**Christ the Lord!**

**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!**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**O come, let us adore Him,**

**Christ the Lord!**

## THE SERMON

Pastor Toopes

**“Heart Treasure”**  
**Text: Luke 2:15-20**

## THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor: 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 His favor and give you peace.

*(Amen response is sung by all.)*



## THE CLOSING HYMN

L.S.B. #387

**"Joy to the World"**  
Isaac Watts & George F. Handel

**3. No more let sin and sorrow 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.**

**(CONTINUED)**

(16)

**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.**

## **THE CLOSING WORDS**

**Pastor:** Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
**People:** Amen! Thanks be to God

## **THE POSTLUDE**

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from the Lutheran Service Book  
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000014332.

**WORSHIP CHRIST - THE NEWBORN KING!!!**

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Andrew Toopes

[toopes57@gmail.com](mailto:toopes57@gmail.com)

Phone #870-672-2117

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Mark Press

[press@csp.edu](mailto:press@csp.edu)

Phone #651-788-6940

**Director of School Ministry:** Mr. Bill Hiskey

[bhiskey@htlc-bg.org](mailto:bhiskey@htlc-bg.org)

Phone #270-843-1001

**Director of Christian Education:**

Mr. Jonah Kaufmann

[jkaufmann@htlc-bg.org](mailto:jkaufmann@htlc-bg.org)

Phone #270-843-9595

**Deacon:** Mike Bryant

[lutheransound@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransound@gmail.com)

Phone #270-791-5495

**Co-Choir Directors:** Beth Markel  
Amy Wieting

[beth@themarkelfamily.com](mailto:beth@themarkelfamily.com)

[awieting@ix.netcom.com](mailto:awieting@ix.netcom.com)

**Organists:** Judy Owens  
and Beth Markel

[judyowens264@yahoo.com](mailto:judyowens264@yahoo.com)

**Minister of Int'l Outreach:** Nelson Feliciano

[impactodegraciabg@gmail.com](mailto:impactodegraciabg@gmail.com)

Phone #270-791-9432

**HTLS Preschool Director:** Gretchen Bugsch

[gbugsch@htlc-bg.org](mailto:gbugsch@htlc-bg.org)

Phone #270-843-1001

**Secretaries:** Dionne Milam (church)  
Jennifer Whittamore (school)

[dmilam@htlc-bg.org](mailto:dmilam@htlc-bg.org)

[school.admin@htlc-bg.org](mailto:school.admin@htlc-bg.org)

The Church & School Offices will be **CLOSED**  
on Friday, December 25 and on Friday,  
January 1, 2021.

If you have a pastoral need on these dates  
please contact Pastor Toopes at  
(870) 672-2117 or [toopes57@gmail.com](mailto:toopes57@gmail.com)

All prayer concerns/praise reports on these  
dates need to be sent to Marty King  
at [marty.king6@gmail.com](mailto:marty.king6@gmail.com)



# Join us for the last services of 2020

**NOTE:** Events are at Bowling Green site unless noted otherwise.

Friday, December 25

**Zion Pentecostal Christmas Day Worship**

11:00 a.m.

**Mara Christmas Day Worship**

12:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 26

**Bible Study at Smiths Grove**

4:00 p.m.

**Worship - C at Smiths Grove**

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

**Worship** at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

**TS & BC** at 9:15 a.m.

Thursday, December 31

**New Year's Eve Service – C**

6:30 p.m.

