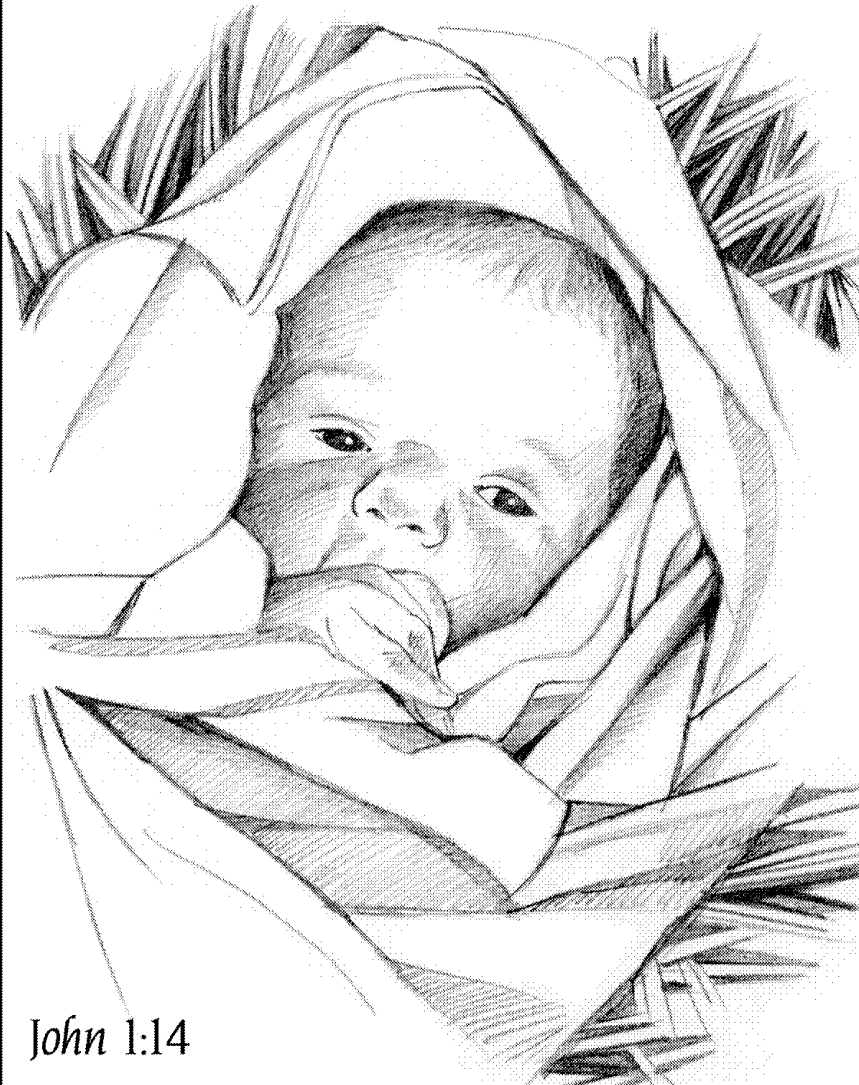


*The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.*



John 1:14

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicollet, Minnesota
December 25, 2018 — 9:00 a.m.

Welcome! The same Lord who welcomed shepherds to his manger bed welcomes you. He came for *you*. He died for *you*.

Need assistance? Our washrooms are behind you in the narthex to the left. You are welcome to take young children out into the narthex if you need a quiet place for them where you can hear the service.

An usher will be glad to help you with any other needs you may have.

Holy Communion: As we receive Christ's body and blood to forgive and strengthen each of us, we also express our unity in Christ. Therefore we gladly invite forward guests who are in full harmony in biblical faith with us. Others wishing to receive the sacrament will want to speak with our pastor about joining our fellowship. We eagerly look forward to that!

OUR SAVIOR'S SERVICE

Before the service the choir sings "A Christmas Blessing."

May the shining splendor of the heavenly light spill into your darkness,
Still you with its light,
Light that seeks the shadows of your sheltered heart,
Reaching every corner, touching every part.

May the angels' music in the air today
Comfort all your sorrow, like a lullaby.
May it blossom within you, fill your broken soul,
Ease your pain and sadness, make your spirit whole.

May the peace of Christmas fill our world this day,
Peace for every nation, peace in every way.
Heal our inward strife that war may cease on earth.
Peace be born within us with the Savior's birth.

HYMN 55

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

(All stand. Please speak the bold words that begin with C, “congregation.”)

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

C: **And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, . . . in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (spoken)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

(♩) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex-cel-sis De - o, Glo - - - - -
ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. We worship you, we give you thanks. We praise you for your glory.

All sing refrain.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

All sing refrain.

For you alone are the Holy One. You alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All sing refrain.

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (♩) **Amen.**

ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

PSALM 98

Refrain (first by keyboard, then by all)



All the ends of the earth have seen the pow-er of
God! All the ends of the earth have
seen the pow - er of God!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
For he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won the victory for him, his holy arm.

Refrain (by all)

The LORD has made his salvation known,
His justice revealed to all.
Remembered his kindness and faithfulness to Israel.

Refrain (by all)

All of the ends of the earth have seen
Salvation by our God.
Joyfully sing out all you lands, break forth in song.

Refrain (by all)

Sing to the LORD with harp and song,
With trumpet and with horn.
Sing in your joy before the King, the King our LORD.

Refrain (by all)

HEBREWS 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom." ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

VERSE

Refrain (first pastor or soloist sings, then all sing the same melody)



M: Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law" (Galatians 4:4-5).

All sing refrain, then all rise.

JOHN 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.⁸ He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.⁹ The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

(All are seated.)

HYMN 35:1–4

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

REVELATION 4:1–3, 5:6

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in

heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. [...]

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

SERMON on REVELATION 4:1–3 and 5:6

(say “Amen” to the minister’s greeting.)

“OPEN MY EYES ...”

HYMN 35:5

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

OFFERING

Please also sign our register. Thanks for helping make us a friendly church.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: In response to the good news that our Savior is born, let us pray and praise God and join the angels’ song once again.

Merciful and loving God, in the birth of your Son you brought peace to earth. May all believers around the globe continually give thanks to you and treasure all these things in our hearts, that we may join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

M: Give boldness to all pastors of your church to proclaim the good news of great joy to all people, that all may join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

M: Grant courage, wisdom and humility to our President, and all in authority over us. May Christian military personnel of every land remain safe and work toward stability and harmony between nations now at war. As troops soon return home and families are reunited, we will join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

M: Father, you gave your Son to be born for us in lowly circumstances. Remember those who have little compared to us: the homeless, hungry, and oppressed. Give hope to those who are lonely and homebound. Grant peace and healing to the sick and suffering and to those in the hospital (especially _____). Comfort the dying and those who mourn. May your love to us flow through our lives and be a blessing to others so that with us they may join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

M: Heavenly Father, even as the Word became flesh in the nativity of your Son, so also do we marvel that his holy body and blood are given us this day to eat and to drink. Drive away all doubt, and strengthen our faith to trust securely in the forgiveness of sins as we join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

M: By the birth of your Son, you have clothed us with eternal hope. We remember with thanksgiving all those who have died in the faith. Unite our voices with theirs that we may ever join the heavenly song of angels, saying,

C: **Glory to God in the highest.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")*

M: The King of the angels has taught us boldly to pray:

C: (♩) **Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,**

Most holy be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done—

On earth, in heaven the same.

Give us this day the food we need;

Forgiven may we be.

Into temptation do not lead;

From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom— gratefully

Before your throne we bow.

And yours the power— let us see

Your mighty presence now.

The glory yours— your praise be sung

By ev'ry citizen

Of ev'ry land, with angel choirs,

Forevermore! Amen.

PREFACE

(to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")

M: May the good Lord be with you.

Lift your hearts to God in praise!

C: (♩) **May the Lord be with you, too.**

To the Lord our hearts we raise!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

In the Word of God made flesh, Great and wondrous mystery,

Taste and see with vision fresh God's abundant majesty.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Therefore with all saints on earth And the hosts of heav'n above

Let us praise his name, whose birth Brings to us eternal love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CONSECRATION

(to the tune of "From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come")

C: (♩) **The night when Jesus was betrayed**

He took the bread, with thanks he prayed,

Then broke and gave them of the bread

And unto his disciples said:

M: "This is . . . hearts remain."

C: **After the sacred meal was o'er**

Our Lord and Savior spoke once more.

He offered thanks and lifted up,

To give to all, the blessed cup:

M: "Drink this, . . . gracious covenant."

C: **Christ, Lamb of God, you take away
The sin of all. O, hear us pray
And give us from our guilt release.
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

DISTRIBUTION of Jesus' Body and Blood, and Hymns 58 & 34

(All are seated as the pastor and elder commune each other. Then ushers invite communicants forward in groups of about 10 per side.)

After Jesus' body and blood have been received, all will rise.

THANKSGIVING — HYMN 707 *(all sing)*



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im -man-u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im -man-u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im -man-u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im -man-u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

BENEDICTION

(to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")

M: May the good Lord bless and keep,
Cause his face on you to shine,
Look on you with favor deep,
Granting you his peace divine.

C: (♩) **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

+ + +

THANKS to our organist, Debbie Witte, our other musicians and singers, our communion helper, our ushers, and those helping with streaming/ projecting.

WELCOME to all our guests. We're so glad you have come. Come again to worship God-in-the-flesh. Be filled again with Jesus' forgiveness and love.

WONDERING about future services? We worship every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in our Fireside Room (use the school entrance off 6th Street) and every Sunday here at 9:00 a.m.

What if you're sick, or roads are bad? Join us online. We stream our Sunday services live and post the worship folder online.

To find the stream, go to www.TrinityNicollet.org. Under the *Spiritual Growth* tab click on *Service Live Streaming*. Normally two weeks of services are archived.

Looking for an audio recording of a sermon? Under the same tab, click on *Sermons — Listen Online* to stream or download many past sermons.

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IF YOU BOUGHT A POINSETTIA for our chancel you are welcome to take it home after this service.

BIBLE STUDY: We will not have Bible study next Sunday morning.

- After a two-week holiday break, Monday Bible studies will resume on January 9.
- Wednesday morning Bible classes will resume on January 11.

BIBLE STUDIES on Sundays (10:30–11:30 a.m.) January 6, 13 and 20 will focus on “Everyone a Minister.”

- Monday 7–8 p.m. and Wednesday 9–10 a.m. discussions resuming January 9/11 will focus on stories from Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

ON JANUARY 13 congregation leaders whom we voted for in Jesus’ name in our November voters’ meeting will come forward for recognition and prayer.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE and CATERED GERMAN MEAL: Sunday, January 27, Professor James Danell of Martin Luther College will preach for our 150th anniversary kickoff. The MLC College Choir (63 singers!) will sing, and we plan a catered German meal after the service, with a suggested \$10 donation. No money will be collected in advance. You may sign up on the school or narthex bulletin board or online at <http://bit.ly/1-27signup>.

Any extra money collected at the meal will help build our synod’s proposed new Hmong Training Facility in Hanoi, Vietnam.

MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL: *MVL Office Holiday Hours:* The school office will be closed Dec. 31–Jan. 1. MVL faculty, staff, board, and students wish you all a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

- *The MVL Chargers* will be participating in the Kwik Trip Holiday Basketball Tournament. The tournament will be held at Bethany Lutheran College Dec. 27–29. Visit blc.edu for more information.
- *MVL has anniversary t-shirts* available for purchase, \$10 for adults (S–3XL) and \$7 for youth (S–XL). Limited quantities in certain colors and sizes, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507.354.6851.

Our Weekly Catechism Page

“Wherever I cause my name to be honored,” the Lord told his people at Mount Sinai, “I will come to you and I will bless you” (*Exodus 20:24*).

God’s second commandment is about his name. We must not misuse his holy name. Nothing could be more important than his name, the Lord.

How do we know this? Not only a) does God promise to *bless* us through his name, b) he also promises to *save* us:

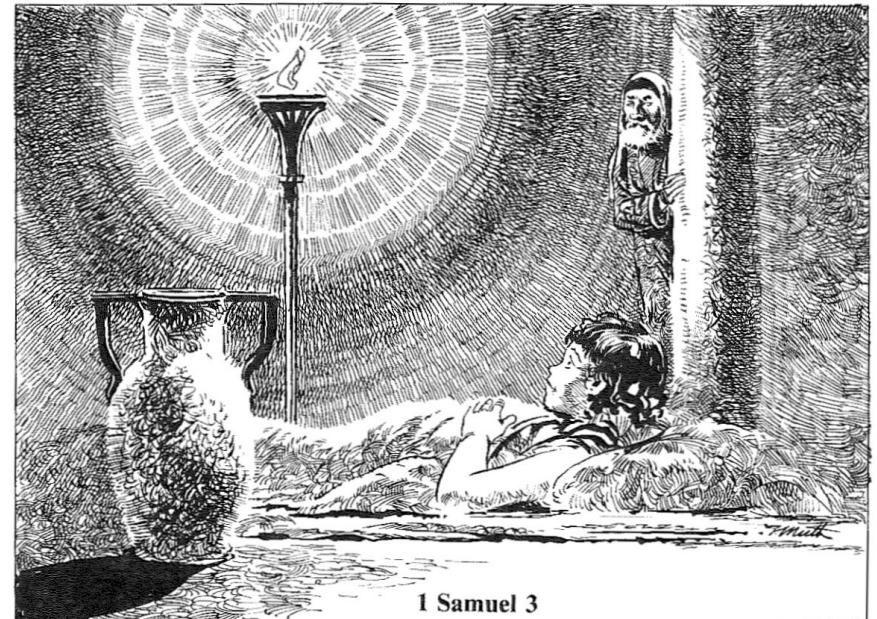
In the last day’s destruction, all people will have only one hope: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (*Romans 10:13*).

So God means this commandment for our hearts, as much as our heads.

How are we to use the most precious name? Pray. Ponder God’s Word. Attend Bible studies. Worship the Lord carefully, according to his Word.

The boy Samuel gives us a good example of using the name of the Lord the right way. His mother Hannah has committed him to full-time service in the Lord’s holy tent, the tabernacle, under Eli’s care.

The voice of the Lord has awakened Samuel. In obedient faith, Samuel replies, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” (*1 Samuel 3:9*).



How Can We Help You?

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