

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.*

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship:

Psalm 126

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us!

People: And we are filled with joy!

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

People: Our tears into songs of joy!

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

People: And remain in us forever.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise:

***Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come
Trinity Hymnal #195***

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel:

Ephesians 5.8-10

...at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel:

Ephesians 2.4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved....

God Consecrates Us by Pledge, Praise and Prayer

Administration of Baptism on Profession of Faith:

Gwendolyn Louise Perkins

Hymn of Thanksgiving:

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Trinity Hymnal #203***

Advent Reading of Faith:

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
The desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
In the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
The grass shall become reeds and rushes.
And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
The unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
Even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
They shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hymn of Meditation:

***What Child Is This
Trinity Hymnal #213***

Prayer of Intercession:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

** Children dismissed for Little Church*

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1.57-80

Sermon:

The Visit of Visits

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith:

The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 35. What does it mean that [Christ] “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David’s true descendant, like his brothers in every way except for sin.

Q. 36. How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God’s sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

Hymn of Response:

***As with Gladness Men of Old
Trinity Hymnal #226***

Benediction:

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.