P: This is the day the Lord has made;  
C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
P: You are my God, and I will give you thanks;  
C: You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
P: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!  
C: The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;  the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things.  
P: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
C: You have become my salvation.  
P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
C: His love endures forever.

PRAYER - Pastor

Hymn # 35 vv 1,3 - Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

HYMN # 28 vv 1,3-5 - Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-10

Hymn # 37 vv 1,4-6 - Once Again My Heart Rejoices

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:11-19

Hymn # 16 vv 1-3,5 - On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry


P: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

C: And everyone went to his own town to register.

P: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

C: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

P: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

C: And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

P: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn # 50 - Once in Royal David’s City

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

P: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

C: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

P: But the angel said to them,  
C: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
P: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
C: he is Christ the Lord.  
P: This will be a sign to you:  
C: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.  
P: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
C: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Hymn # 60 - Silent Night! Holy Night!

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

P: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
C: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

P: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
C: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

P: and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
C: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Choir: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Hymn # 63 - Angels We Have Heard On High

Sermonette – John 1:11,12
Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas?

Christmas Day Offering

Christmas Day Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn # 48 - When Christmas Morn Is Dawning

Prayer and Blessing

Closing Hymn # 62 - Joy to the World

We are glad that you joined us today to celebrate our Savior's birth. We thank our organists, David Bilitz (Trinity) and LeAnn Marzinske (St. John's). We also thank the choirs for their songs.

There will be no Bible Studies at St. John's or Trinity nor will there be Sunday School classes today or next Sunday.

Pastor Bilitz will be on vacation this week. If you need pastoral assistance, please contact Pastor Del Begalka (507-344-0361).

Please note both churches will have New Year's Day services:
8:30 am at Trinity
10:00 am at St. John's

Holy Communion will be offered in these services. There will be no services on New Year's Eve.

The MN Dept. of Health has found coliform bacteria in St. John's water again. The immunocompromised, pregnant women, elderly, and children may be at increased risk from drinking it. Hopefully it was treated this week and will be tested again. There are sheets in entryway and bathrooms with information.

Congratulations to Scott and Amber Ewert whom the Lord blessed with a baby boy, Nathan, on December 17th!

Your 2017 offering envelopes are available in the basement at St. John's and in the entryway at Trinity.

Thank-you for all the cards, prayers and well wishes while I was in the hospital. They were deeply appreciated. John Kelling.

Pastor, Carol, and their family wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!
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