



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In search of our kneeling places

by Ann Weems

In each heart lies a Bethlehem
an inn where we must ultimately answer
Whether there is room or not
When we are Bethlehem-bound
We experience our own advent in Christ's
When we are Bethlehem-bound
We can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
Not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
Tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
And see this thing that the Lord has made known to us
In the midst of shopping sprees
Let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
Let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
Let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
And find our kneeling places.



The Second Sunday of Advent
12.07.2025 | 10:00am | trinitylutheran.ws

Welcome to Trinity!

A place of love, grace, and belonging, where all, without exception, are loved, honored, valued, affirmed, welcomed, and celebrated.

If we can make you feel more at home, please speak to an usher or greeter.

As disciples of Christ working for peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and embrace all people, without exception, into the fullness of God's love. We advocate for racial, gender, queer, and economic equity. We celebrate people of all cultures, ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this community. All are invited to join us as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

CHILDREN & PARENTS

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex or the Gym for children. Bags for preschoolers are tied with a white ribbon. Bags for elementary age children have no ribbon. After worship, used bags may be placed in the baskets next to the stands.

A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff, Beth Oswald, as well as a small group of rotating volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 am worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if you need assistance.

PRAYING WITH US

We encourage you to participate fully in our service, as you are comfortable. We invite you to read aloud the **bold text**. Wherever you see (+), you are invited to cross yourself. Other actions are indicated during the service, but none are required.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

If you are new to Trinity, we are thrilled to have you here. If you would like to know more about this congregation and our ministry please share your contact information with us by filling out a Connection Card which can be obtained from the pew racks or baskets. Thank you for your presence among us.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Bob Berlam by Ann Berlam.

Serving Today

Susan J. Crowell,
Presiding Minister

Bishop Kevin Strickland,
Preaching

Patrick D. Preacher,
Assisting Minister

**Jim Parham, Organist &
Choir Director**

Lector
Carl Witherspoon

Prayers
Drake McFadyen

Cantor
Amanda Cook

Guitar
Duke Barsody

Communion Assistant
David "Stopy" Stoppenhagen

Acolyte
Jenna Mast

**Children's Worship
Opportunity Leaders**
Maggie Boliek, Suzanne Rudisill

Nursery
Melissa Kolb

Praying for Possibilities
Angie McCormack

Greeters
Mark Allen, Deirdre Hixson,
Jane Mortensen, Lyle Mortensen,
Suzanne Rudisill

Ushers
Joe Druga, Carol Elliott,
Danny Fagala, David Potts

Video
Henry Wilcox

Audio
Gregg Alley



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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God Welcomes All

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you're able.

Blessed be the God of Israel (+)
who does wondrous things for all of God's beloveds.
O Loving God, in this season of waiting and longing,
we come, in honesty and vulnerability,
to admit our fears and longings to you.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our heavenly parent,
we confess that we do not always live as people preparing for the light.
We hurry through our days and ignore the quiet invitations to pause.
We cling to what is familiar and safe,
even when what is familiar and safe to some of us is deeply harmful to others
of us,
even when your Spirit calls us toward justice, mercy, grace, and courageous
love.
We name out loud before you the harm we cause -
to ourselves, to one another, to your creation -
through our inaction, our assumptions, and our fear.
Yet you come to us, again and again,
bringing strength to our weary bodies,
granting peace to our anxious hearts,
engendering hope to our perplexed spirits.
Forgive us.
Renew us.
Heal us.
Wake us to your Advent promise.
Amen.

Beloved community, hear this good news:
God draws near to you.
God brings stillness, solitude, gentle moments of healing to your advent busyness.
God shines light into the shadows of your life,
dispels the darkness of this weary, burdened world.
You are forgiven, liberated, loved.

In the name of Jesus, (+) you are made new,
made ready for the coming of Christ,
given all you need to carry Christ's light into the world.
Amen.

In the confession we admit the ways we have not lived as we were created to live, both individually, and corporately, and ask for forgiveness. The pastor declares to us the wonderful grace of God's promise of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the absolute remission of guilt.

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael
 Franzén, 1772-1847;
 tr. *Lutheran Book of
 Worship*

Music: BEKEDEN
 VAG YOK HERKAN,
 SWedish folk tune,
 17th cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran
 Book of Worship*,
 admin. Augsburg
 Fortress.

GREETING

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

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

Verses 1 and 2 only.

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose. b. 1934

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

and also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy One, in this season of longing and light, you call us, like John the Baptist in the wilderness, to prepare the way for your liberating presence. Not through fear, but through courage. Not through shame, but through transformation. Not through exclusion, but through expansive love. Open our hearts to the fire of your spirit - a refining flame that clears away what harms and sparks within us a passion for justice, compassion, and truth. Let this fire not consume, but renew; not destroy, but illuminate the path ahead. As we hear John's cry to repent, teach us to turn toward the world you dream of-- where every valley is lifted, every barrier of oppression brought low, and every person honored as your beloved. Come Emmanuel - not just to us, but through us, for the sake of the world; through Jesus, the Christ, whose advent we await. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom. ²The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you—a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH. ³You will delight in obeying YHWH, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay. ⁴You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. ⁵Justice will be the belt around this your waist faithfulness will gird you up. ⁶Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. ⁸The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest. ⁹There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH. ¹⁰On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The prayer of the day covers the wide variety of human longing and responsibilities of the church and humanity.

We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a Lectionary. These are lessons being heard in congregations from many denominations throughout the world on this day.

The Psalm is a hymn or poem. The psalms cover the whole range of the relationship between God and God's people.

The Book of Psalms, while a "book" of the Bible, consists of 150 hymns intended to be sung.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



- ¹ Give the king your jus | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and I moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more
- ¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

Accompanied by Child Protection trained adults, children are invited to leave worship after the children's sermon to go hear the scripture read in ways more appropriate for their age. Using lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children not only hear scripture, but enjoy a related activity such as a game, craft, or music. Children return to worship during the sharing of the peace and in time to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

God Makes a Way

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as able.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Text: Philip Doddridge,
1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD,
Thomas Haweis, 1734-
1820

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

During worship, there is always a reading from a Gospel. We stand to indicate the importance we place on Jesus' words and actions.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of our God;
make clear the paths of God.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The sermon is meant to help us make the Word of God a living and transforming reality of our lives today.

SERMON

Bishop Kevin Strickland

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as able.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



- 1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551

APOSTLE'S CREED

God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the Creed, we respond to the proclamation of God's Word by affirming the historic faith of the Church. We "believe" (from the Latin credere, literally "to put one's heart into") because we offer our trust in the story of God's creating, redeeming, and remaining with the world. "We" believe because the church as a whole, the Body of Christ, carries and strengthens the faith of each individual. Also note that when it is not capitalized, the word "catholic" is defined as universal or inclusive.

The Prayers of Intercession are always responsive, because everyone gives voice to the supplications. We include prayers for others throughout the world, in our Synod, and those connected to our congregation.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. Instill in Greenville a mercy for the unhoused and compassion for those who are being priced out of Greenville neighborhoods and buildings. We pray especially for those who find their search for shelter criminalized in the City of Greenville. Use us to clear a path for all to have access to warm shelter and healthy food. Bring an end to Greenville's discrimination against the poor and the destitute, the addicted and the anxious. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, clear a path for humanity and all creation to mutually thrive. With most of our trees now standing bare and naked, vulnerable to the wind and weather, let them serve as a reminder to us that you welcome our own vulnerability. Open our hearts to the beautiful ways your creation teaches us to live. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. Bring an end to ICE raids and help this country to see our immigrant neighbors as your precious and beloved children. Clear a path for their safety and welcome just as you cleared a path for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Bring swift comfort to those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery, medical procedures, or treatment for illness. Bless chemotherapy technicians and those who serve the weak and dying in hospice. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. Bring an end to the oppression of our Queer and Transgender siblings. Grant them hope of a safe and loving future in your church and in you. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With trust in your steadfast promises on this second Sunday of Advent, kindle in us a candle of faith. In a world weary with waiting and growing darker by the day, strengthen our trust in your unfolding hope. When doubts rise within us and the way ahead feels uncertain, steady our hearts with your quiet light and remind us that doubts are a natural and even welcome part of faith. Teach us to lean into your promises—to walk by faith and not by sight, to believe that your peace is drawing near, and to live as though your kin-dom has already arrived. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With faith in the power of your Holy Spirit, we ask that you accompany this congregation during its annual meeting following worship. Make the way clear for your people to do ministry in your name. Grant us as individuals the clarity to give one another the benefit of the doubt, to believe in the best of intentions, and to leave this place with a renewed sense of mission and purpose for doing ministry in your name. We give you thanks for all the hands, minds, hearts, and prayers that have come together to propose the 2026 ministry plan and budget. As we proclaim that you are in all things, help us to see you in this work. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With hope and excitement for the future of the Body of Christ, we give you thanks for the active justice-centered ministry of Bishop Kevin Strickland and those he serves in the Southeastern Synod. Continue clearing a path for bold and brave Christian leadership in a country divided by Christian Nationalism. Form disciples in your name who proclaim your good news of welcome and belonging and who are willing to challenge the status quo. Strengthen Bishop Strickland and all Bishops for the demands of leadership in your name. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. As we watch and we wait, O God,
receive our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

PEACE

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

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

The Peace has been exchanged in worship since the time of the first Christians. It is a profound act to offer the miraculous peace of God to one another before we join in communion with God and each other.

God Invites Us to the Table

OFFERING

A Shoot Shall Come Forth

Adult Choir

Music: Richard Horn; Text: Verses from Isaiah chapter 11, and chapter 32, verse 18.

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, And a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him, The spirit of wisdom and truth.

Refrain: Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, And the lion eat straw with
the ox, For the hand of a Child shall lead them To the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation, Will he draw us the water of life;
His waist shall be girdled with justice, The heart of his heart shall be Love. Refrain.

He'll come from the end of his heaven, And the earth shall be torn from its place;
Our lives shall be filled with his radiance, As floodwaters cover the sea. Refrain.

OFFERING HYMN

You Came Down

1 You came down that we may have love; you
2 You came down that we may have light; you
3 You came down that we may have peace; you
4 You came down that we may have joy; you

came down that we may have love; you came down that we may
came down that we may have light; you came down that we may
came down that we may have peace; you came down that we may
came down that we may have joy; you came down that we may

have love;
have light;
have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - e - ver - more.
have joy;

Music: Cameroon
traditional, arr
John L. Bell

Text: Cameroon
traditional adpt.

Arr. © 1986 Iona
Community, admin.
GIA Publications, Inc.



The Offertory is when we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to God as our initial act of thanksgiving. This collection is a visible reminder that our whole lives are God's, and a part of what God has given us we give back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to our website trinitylutheran. ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.

Let us pray, Eternal God,
**you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers
of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, God of pow - er, God of
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is the one who
comes Blessed! Blessed in the name of God.

The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, overwhelmed by the presence of God in the sanctuary, and these words were sung by the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Sanctus reminds us that this is an offering of the whole creation, which joins in singing these praises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It links our daily bread to the spiritual food we receive in Communion.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

In an effort to further embrace Trinity's mission of welcome, affirmation, and hospitality, both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness is found in the bread, wine, and grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the wafer into the chalice to receive Communion by intinction.

Lamb of God

O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us,
 give us your peace. Pre-pare us to re-ceive your grace and
 teach us how to fol-low your ways. Re-joice! Re-joice! E-
 man-u-el has come to you, O Is-ra-el.

All Earth Is Hopeful *Toda la tierra*

To-da la tie-rra es-pe-ra al Sal-va-dor
 1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
 4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.

y el sur-co_a-bier-to, la ob-ra del Se-ñor; es el
 Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our

mun-do que lu-cha por la li-ber-tad, re-
 la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

cla-ma jus-ti-cia y bus-ca la ver-dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.
 God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

From Everlasting
 Light

© Text 2011
 Rev. David Eck

Text: Alberto
 Taulé, b. 1932; tr.
 Madeleine Forell
 Marshall, b. 1946

Mus: 10DA LA
 MirKKA. Alnerto
 laule

Spanish text and
 tune © 1993 and
 English text © 1995
 Centro de Pastoral
 Litúrgica, admin.
 OCP Publications,
 5536 NE Hassalo,
 Portland, OR 97213.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

People, Look East

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose. b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associate:

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1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.

Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988

Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: Philip Doddridge,
1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD,
Thomas Haweis,
1734-1820

Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song,
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Please stand as able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of unfolding hope,
We thank you for this meal that nourishes and strengthens us
and for the loving presence of Christ made known among us.
As we journey from this meal,
may the promise of advent take root within us;
the promise that light grows in the shadows,
that justice can flourish in weary places,
and that peace is possible, even now.
Walk with us as we wait, as we watch, and as we work
for the coming of Emmanuel-
God with us, love through us, peace for all God's beloveds.

Amen.

Text: Charles Coffin,
1676-1749; tr.
composite

Music: PUER NOBIS,
European tune,
adapt. Michael
Praetorius, 1571-
1621

After Communion,
we give thanks for
being part of the
communion of God's
life and for being fed
so that we may go
out to feed and serve
others in our world.

God Sends Us to Love and Serve the World

BLESSING

May this holy meal strengthen our hope,
awaken our longing for justice,
and kindle Christ's light within us.
As we journey through advent,
may love guide your steps,
peace shape your lives,
and joy fill your hearts
as God blesses you + this day and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Please stand as able.

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise
Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF
PEACE, William P.
Rowan, b. 1951

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DISMISSAL

Beloved community,
Go forth to clear a path,
to make a way for love.
Let justice guide your steps,
compassion open your heart,
and hope lead you ever deeper into God's unfolding promise
of love and light, hope and peace.

Thanks be to God.

Following worship everyone is invited to remain seated for the second session of the Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served during the break.

Having heard the Gospel and having been fed at communion, the final act of our common worship is the Dismissal. It is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the service. Jesus' final action on earth was to send his followers into the world to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he had commanded. And so we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.



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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Activities & Opportunities



December 7, 2025

Our Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Eddie Woodward at his death on November 29.

We welcome Rev. Dr. Kevin L. Strickland, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod, as our guest preacher today. Prior to being elected to this position, Bishop Strickland served in the ELCA Churchwide office since August of 2014 as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA. Bishop Strickland is deeply committed to justice and advocacy ministry. He and his husband, Robby, make their home in Atlanta, Georgia.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place today following worship. The ten nominees for the five three-year terms and the nominee for the one one-year youth term are: Lynn Andrews, Chris Barsody, Jess Bigby, William Bryant, Sharron Goodlett, Tori Hilbourn, Kerrie Seymour, Jeff Waddell, Matthew Wessinger, Carl Witherspoon, and Clayton Dykes. While the ballots are being counted, participants will enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

Adult Faith Exploration Advent Series. For the four Sundays of Advent, the Adult Faith Exploration Class is exploring and experiencing how Christmas is observed in each of the four Gospels in a study led by Renee Heiliger. This creative, four-session adult study compares each of the Gospels to styles of various homes. Illustrations of each Gospel house are provided by artist Kevin Burns based on his interpretation of the shape and character of each Gospel. Together adults will be invited to view Christmas from the different perspectives offered in each house as they further reflect on the mystery of Jesus. This study is interactive, hands on, and engages the heart as followers journey to the manger. Class begins at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 & 13 on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.

Trinity Children and Youth. (K-12th grade) are invited to a Christmas gathering, following the Congregational Meeting today. Children and Youth will enjoy lunch together, games with prizes, and an ornament exchange.

Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group. A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 am to 8:00 am in the Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming dates include December 10 and January 14.

Love Wins will gather for a Christmas Party and Ornement Exchange on Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 pm at the home of Jaime and Karen Fivecoat, 11 Andy Court, Taylors. All participants are encouraged to bring an unwrapped Christmas ornament for the exchange as well as an appetizer or dessert to share with the group. Soft drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Angie McCormack at ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws.

Christmas Pageant and Brunch. A congregational Christmas Pageant that is both interactive and intergenerational will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 am in the Gym. There is a place for everyone at the manger! Come and participate in this meaningful worship experience. Following worship, a catered brunch of chicken and waffles, bacon, eggs, biscuits, fruit, and yogurt bar will be served in the Multipurpose Room. Juice, coffee, and tea will also be served.

Sabbath Rest During Advent. Life is a constant hustle: Go! Do! Achieve! Yet even God, who created everything, found time to rest after creating before moving into the work of engaging with creation. And Jesus? Jesus loved to pray...and rest! How does one rest? Does anyone rest anymore? Is it possible to find time to practice Sabbath? Join Patrick Preacher for classes about Sabbath from a biblical perspective while embodying ways to incorporate Sabbath into your weekly routine - just in time to get your body and mind ready for the bustle of the Christmas Season! The second of the two sessions will take place this Wednesday, December 10 in Rooms 12 & 13. Each session will focus on Sabbath rest and include some opportunities for practice. Participants are welcome to attend one or both of the sessions. Contact Patrick Preacher via text with any questions at 864-483-2590.

Mahjong Group. A group gathers each Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Assembly Room to spend time together and play Mahjong. It's a non-competitive group with folks willing to teach others to play the game. Questions may be directed via text to Lani Ludian at 864-419-9574.



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