



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Third Sunday of Advent

12.14.2025 | 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 given to the Glory of God and in memory of her parents, Glenn and Kathleen McGee by Craig and Kathleen Anderson.

Serving Today

Susan J. Crowell,
Presiding Minister

Patrick D. Preacher,
Assisting Minister

**Jim Parham, Pianist &
Choir Director**

Narrators: Jay Hilbourn &
Kerri Seymour

Holy Family
Lauren, Shane, Tony, &
Otto Smithman

Prayers
Carolyn Wehle

Communion Assistant
Sharron Goodlett

Praying for Possibilities
Lisa Rehm

Musicians:
Trinity Adult Choir
Trinity Handbell Choir
Addie Black, violin
Sadie Zhou, violin
Mary Beth Ridenhour, violin
Heather Kleckley, cello
Amanda Mast, flute
Jo Lewis, flute
Jenna Mast, clarinet
Jim Blalock, alto sax
Duke Barsody, guitar
John Beckford, percussion

Greeters
Mark Allen, David Londono,
Jeff Waddell, JL Dykes,
Stopy Stoppenhagen

Ushers
William Bryant, Carol Elliott,
Calvin Harmon,
Pattimarie Janssen

Video
Henry Wilcox

Audio
Gregg Alley



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

421 N. Main St. | Greenville, SC | (864) 242 5702 | fax (864) 242 6442 | info@trinitylutheran.ws



God Welcomes All

PRELUDE

O Holy Night and What Child Is This
Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella

arr. Dan Coates (Addie Black, piano)
arr. Sallie Lloyd (Handbell Choir)

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

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts,
1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH,
English melody, 18th
cent.; arr. Lowell
Mason, 1792-1872

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, 2, and 3 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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 Farjeon Will Trust, by
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 Higham Associate:

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

and also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God, as we recreate the holy night of our Savior's birth, we thank you for the diversity of those who were there—each one, from the lowly to the wise, from the living creatures to the people, playing their part in the grand story of your love. May we, too, find our place in your story, and offer our hearts to you and our neighbors this Christmas season. We pray with thanksgiving that you are constantly coming among us. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS

Innskeepers: Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! Let us open our eyes and ears to the story of when Christ was born!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Phillips Brooks,
1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS,
Lewis H. Redner,
1831-1908

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The Holy Family moves to the manger during the hymn.

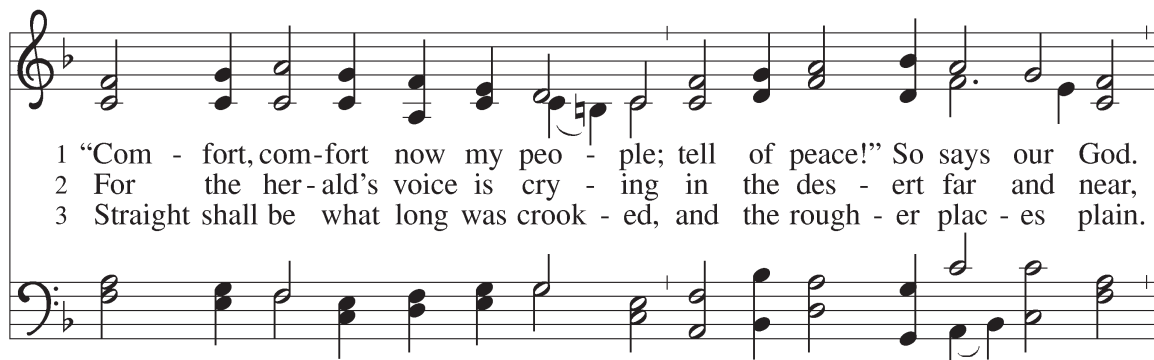
PART 1: MARY AND JOSEPH

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.
So tired and dirty, they gave us a fright.
Sickly or dying? What was the matter?
“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!
“Our rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.
There’ll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.
But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.
I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed.
I cleaned up the stable: I cooked up a meal.
We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel.
For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!
So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.
The child came so quickly. His face seemed so bright
in a stable so cold and dreary that night.
Joseph said softly. “It’s Jesus, my friend.”
God sent him among us to bring to an end
fear and hatred, and darkness and sin.
So God sent us light, which began to break in

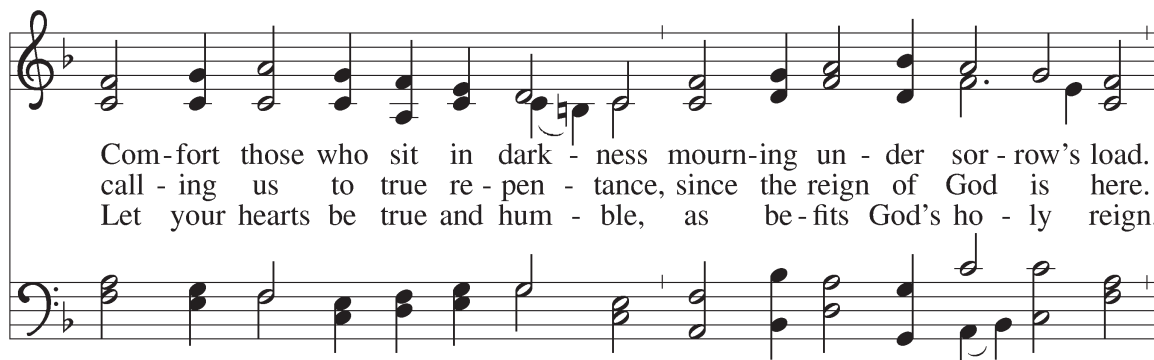
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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



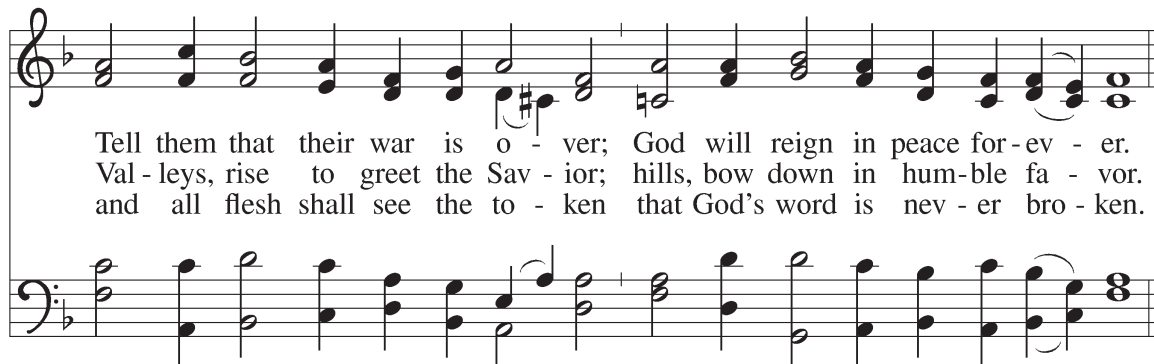
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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 reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's 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,

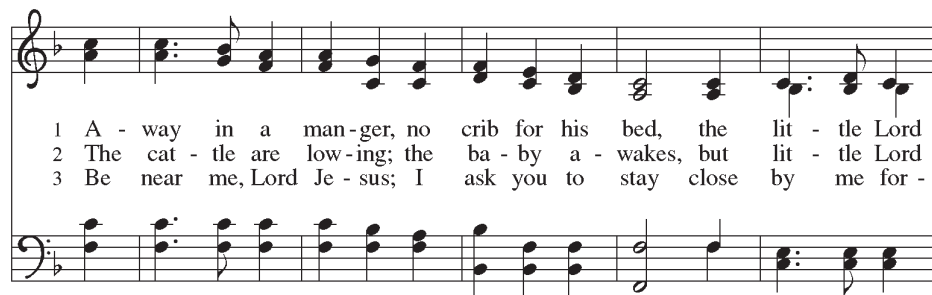


Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

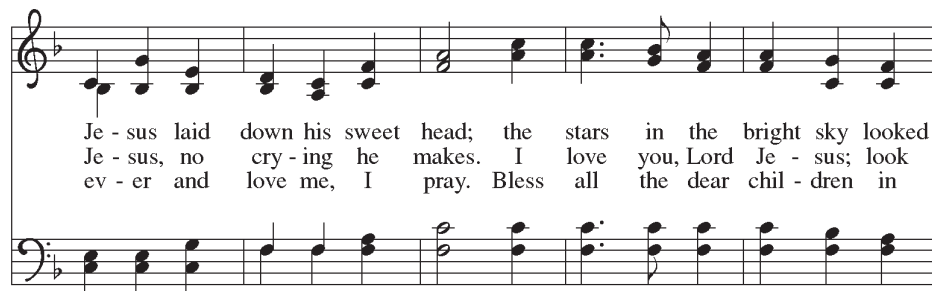
PART 2: THE ANIMALS

My animals were calm, quieter than normal.
They often were noisy, and never too formal.
They always were eating, or else they were sleeping.
The stable required continuous sweeping.
But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe
at the sight of the babe and all that they saw.
It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them,
Had fed and watered and carefully brushed them.
They knew, I believe, that God had been able
to work a miracle there in that stable.

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North
American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A
MANGER, James R.
Murray, 1841-1905

Animals are invited to move to the center of the worship space during the musical interlude and surround the Holy Family.

PART 3: THE ANGELS

We don't often see angels in flight.
But on that very first Christmas, they lit up the night.
They appeared to the shepherds and, wow, were they scared!
"Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?"
"Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up?
Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?"
But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all"
was the angels' sweet song; that was their call.
With a light show that dazzled all who did see,
the angels hallelujahed and sang out with glee.
"To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed.
"To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected."
"Go worship the Lord and follow God's ways.
And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

The musical score consists of six systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The score is arranged in a standard format with lyrics placed between the vocal and piano lines.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William Cummings, 1831-1915.

Angels are invited to move to the center of the worship space during the musical interlude and surround the Holy Family.

PART 4: SHEPHERDS

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and were stunned.
“Too much hard work or too much hot sun!”
That’s what they thought; that’s how they explained.
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.
But the angels’ song calmed them, and then they believed.
They rejoiced when they knew, and they were quite relieved.
They went to the stable and worshipped the Lord.
Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African
American spiritual,
refrain; John W.
Work Jr., 1872-1925,
stanzas, alt.

Shepherds are invited to move to the center of the worship space during the musical interlude and surround the Holy Family.

Music: GO TELL IT,
African American
spiritual

PART 5: WISE ONES AND STARS

The star that shone brightly led Wise Ones to seek
a child, prophesied, to give strength to the weak.
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,
praising God for these wonders from heaven above.
The Wise Ones were scholars, come from afar
seeking the child by the light of a star.
If they brought him treasure,
then maybe we, too, can share of our gifts
as Christ comes into view.
The child, come to save us, was born full of grace
and loved and redeemed the whole human race.

Wise Ones and Stars are invited to move to the center of the worship space during the musical interlude and surround the Holy Family.

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix,
1837-1898.

Music:
GREENSLEEVES,
English ballad, 16th
cent.

All nativity participants are invited to return to their seats following the hymn.

Music: Cameroon
traditional, arr. John
L. Bell

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as able.

Text: Cameroon
Traditional adpt.

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

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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 7/8 time signature. It contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and contains a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp and a 7/8 time signature. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp and a 7/8 time signature. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Watching and waiting joyfully for Christ with the sure and certain hope that God frees us from the bondage of sin, we pray for the church, creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, news of the Savior's birth was first heard by shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. Continue raising up leaders as shepherds in your church who hear your call and are inspired to lead your people in new and bold ways. Raise up disciples who are willing to follow you when the path seems unknown. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Magnificent One, your creation is full of glory and wonder. At the first Christmas you surrounded the holy family with humble animals to provide comfort and peace. We give you thanks for the donkey, not especially brave or smart, but who is steadfast and stubborn just as your love is for us. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Just One, you sent Wise Ones to bow prostrate before a vulnerable baby in a dirty stable. Let their courage in seeking a new kind of leader inspire us to lead and do justice in new ways. Grant us the resolve to lay down our riches at your feet. Clothe in your peace all who journey to this country from foreign lands, teaching us to welcome them as you welcomed the Wise Ones into your presence. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Inclusive One, you are Emmanuel to all. We give you thanks that in this place, babies are born to all kinds of parents and are surrounded by the love of family and chosen family alike. Continue to fill our hearts with the knowledge that we are all your holy family and all types of families, both Queer and traditional, are holy. Your work of radical inclusion is often difficult. Sustain us with more joyful days such as these, when seemingly small things convey how life changing your gospel can be. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Mighty One, you bring the powerful down from their thrones and lift up the lowly. Bring food to those of us who have too little and guide those of us who have too much to share freely. Provide warm and safe shelter to those of us who find ourselves without places to lay our head. Swiftly bring justice and equity to those who are oppressed and marginalized, reminding the world that in your kin-dom, there is always more room. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Healing One, you blessed Mary with the miracle of pregnancy. When it be your will, and at your perfect time, bring your miraculous healing to those who are sick. Comfort the dying and grant the terminally ill the gift of Christian hope. Be with all who suffer alone this holiday season. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

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.

Loving One, you let your face shine upon your people. Continue using this congregation to do your good work in the world. Strengthen outreach and worship ministries and sustain our youth, queer, and education, and music ministries. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Eternal One, through Christ, you have made a way for all people to know eternal life. We thank you for the witness of all the faithful who have gone before us to be with you. Fill us with the beautiful hope of eternal life as we await your coming. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please be seated.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

People of God, today we give thanks for Maria and John—beloved members of this community—who are setting out on a new chapter of life. As they move to Chicago to be closer to their daughters and grandson, we send them with our blessing and our deep gratitude for the ways Christ has shone through them among us.

Maria and John, you have shared your faith, your kindness, and your steady presence in this congregation. You have prayed with us, laughed with us, and wept with us. Your bright smiles showed regulars and newcomers alike the warmth of Christ as you served as Greeters on countless Sundays, welcoming each of us into worship with a kind word and the scent of a Sharpie marker. Your leaving creates a tender place in our hearts, but we trust that the same Spirit who knit us together will continue to hold us close even across the miles.

A gift from Trinity is presented.

We hold you close in prayer as you return to Chicago to be near to Mindy, Missy, and Beckham.

Please stand as able.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you are our dwelling place in every time and every place. We thank you for Maria and John, for the gifts they have offered this congregation, and for the love that guides them toward family. As they settle into new rhythms and spaces, surround them with your peace. Bless their home in Chicago with joy, belonging, and the warmth of renewed connection with Mindy, Missy, and Beckham. When the Chicago winds stir, let them be a reminder of the gift of your Holy Spirit. When Summer heats settle in, allow them to feel the humidity, reminding them of their home here in South Carolina. Let it be that no matter where they go, they will find you and you them. In the finding, help Maria and John to know their Trinity family was beautifully changed thanks to their presence.

Keep them in your care. Strengthen them in faith. And remind them—and us—that in you, no distance is too great, no change too daunting, and no goodbye ever final. In the name of Christ, who makes home wherever we go, **Amen.**

Maria and John, you have been a blessing to us. Now, we send you forth with a blessing from us:

God bless you until we meet again.

God grant you hope, joy, and boundless love.

May you feel the presence of Christ's love on familiar paths and uncharted streets, in blustery winds and fluffy snow.

May the love of God—love that holds us together across every distance—be your shelter, your courage, and your song.

Go with our love. Go with God's peace.

You each are God's beloved child.

Thanks be to God!

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 ANTHEM

Christmas Sanctus

Adult Choir

Music: Lee Dengler; Text: Susan Naus Dengler

See the weary pair, nestled in a stable bare,
gazing at their baby boy, filled with love and praise.

Earth and heaven sing, worshipping the newborn king,
who has come to change the world. Join in songs of praise:

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son. Glory be to God in the highest!

See the shepherds run, searching for God's precious Son;
kneeling at his manger bed, filled with love and praise.

Every knee will bow. Every tongue confessing now,
Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Join in songs of praise:

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son. Glory be to God in the highest.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

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.



Canticle of the Turning

Text: Rory Cooney v. 1952, based on the Magnificat.

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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.

From Everlasting
 Light

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.

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.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated.

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.

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.

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.

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Rev. David Eck

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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Psalterium
Cantionum
Catholicarum, Köln,
1710; tr. composite

Music:
VENI, EMMANUEL,
French processional,
15th cent.

Text: L. O. 19 1991
Augsburg processional.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Music: Abrolt riorces. aur. John Francis Wade.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: Tom Colvin,
1925-2000

Music: BLANTYRE,
Malawi traditional;
adapt. Tom Colvin

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That Boy-Child of Mary

Refrain



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
love and adore him,
give ourselves to him
in Bethlehem.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

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: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.

Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

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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.

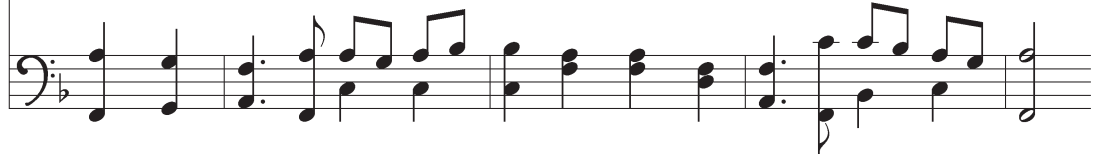
SENDING HYMN

Please stand as able.

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



Text: Cecil Frances
Alexander,
1818-1895

Music: IRBY,
Henry J. Gauntlett,
1805-1876.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
Know that God's story of hope and promise
is your story.
Christ is coming among us
even in the most unexpected places and ways.
Share the good tidings of great joy!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Drama participants are encouraged to keep their candy canes, crowns, halos, masks, and stars, or return them to the tables where they received them.

Everyone is invited to gather in the Multipurpose Room for a festive Christmas Brunch.

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.



Church Staff

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Office Manager

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Activities & Opportunities



December 14, 2025

Hospital Patients

Chris Sullivan — discharged

Danny Baker — discharged

Christmas Pageant and Brunch. The congregational Christmas Pageant that is both interactive and intergenerational is today in the Gym. There is a place for everyone at the manger! 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.

Adult Faith Exploration Advent Series. For the four Sundays of Advent, the Adult Faith Exploration Class is experiencing and exploring 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. The last class of this series is December 21.

The Welcome Table. December's meal will take place on Wednesday, December 17 at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. An RSVP is not required to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to come for lunch! Future dates include January 28 And February 25. If you would specifically like to volunteer, please reach out to Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

Blue Christmas Service. A Blue Christmas or Longest Night service is a holiday tradition at Trinity. Christmas is not all glitter, gold, and ribbons for everyone. The holidays often invite feelings of loss and despair at the current state of our world, the empty chairs around our tables caused by loss, and the painful reminder of broken relationships. This worship service creates and holds space for those emotions. All are welcome to come together in worship on Thursday, December 18 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary for a time of prayer, song, and lament by candlelight. Anyone interested in sharing a gift of musical offering should contact Patrick Preacher via text at 864-483-2590.

Trinity Lutheran Church History Reading Group will meet on Sunday, December 21, following worship in the Church Parlor to discuss *The Great Influenza* by John Barry. Dave Potts will lead the discussion. All are welcome to attend. Contact Don Todd at dk todd47@gmail.com, 803-517-8129 or Bob Schirmer at rwschirmer@gmail.com, 419-348-6508 with questions. A video link will be available.

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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