



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Marked with the cross of Christ we are called to love, serve,  
and celebrate Christ, our community, and one another.*

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## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### ***A Celebration of the Nativity***

**December 22, 2024 9:30 a.m.**



The Trinity Ringers present a special service of music, liturgy, and prayer in celebration of the impending arrival of Emmanuel — God *with* us. As Elizabeth's baby leaps in joy within her womb at the sound of Mary's greeting, so our own hearts leap with joy as we sing and ring praise to God for salvation. The Almighty has done great things for us and holy is his name!

### **Welcome to Worship!**

We're so glad you've joined us today.  
We hope you are blessed by today's service.

## **GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + SENDING**

### **PRELUDE**

“On This Day, Earth Shall Ring”

The Trinity Ringers

Tune: PERSONENT HODIE, arr. by Michael Joy

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING HYMN**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW #240

***Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.***

***Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.***

***Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.***

***Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.  
Let your lights be shining!***

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### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Today, we re-light the first candle on our Advent wreath, celebrating that Jesus is the living Bread from heaven; the second candle, remembering our call to have salty lives reflecting his love; the third candle in praise of Jesus, the Rock our salvation; and we light the fourth, last, candle of the Advent wreath as we rejoice in Jesus our Savior, the Light

of the World. To a world lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus brought the light of love and salvation, a light that we see shining out of the manger in Bethlehem.

**Jesus, Light of the World, shine in and through us!**

Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

**Jesus, Light of the World, shine in and through us!**

Let us pray:

**Lord, bless us this day to be a light to the world. Help us to let our light shine that all people might see your goodness, mercy, and power shining through what they see in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Tune: HYFRYDOL

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant  
grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may  
receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

May the God of peace make us completely holy, ready for the coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + SENDING**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 11:1-10

- <sup>11:1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE**           “Savior of the Nations, Come”

The Trinity Ringers

Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, arr. by John A. Behnke

**SECOND READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
    in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

*Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response**           “Meditation on ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’”

The Trinity Ringers

Tune: ST. LOUIS, arr. by Paul Fey,  
adapted for handbells by Michèle Sharik

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“He Came Down”

ELW #253

***He came down that we may have love,  
he came down that we may have love,  
he came down that we may have love,  
hallelujah forevermore.***

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## GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

*The holy gospel according to Luke.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.”

*The gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

English translation of *Magnificat* [Luke 1:46b-55] © 1998 English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC).  
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*Please be seated.*

## **RESPONSE**

“Country Waltz on ‘My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord’”

The Trinity Ringers

Tune: KINGSFOLD, arr. by Michèle Sharik

**CALL TO PRAYER** “O Antiphons” and

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** with “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Trinity Ringers

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, arr. by John A. Behnke

*The congregation is invited to respond with the bold verses.*

O Wisdom, holy word of God, you govern all creation with your strong  
yet tender care:

Come, **show your people the way to salvation.**

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the  
burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:

Come, **stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.**

O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all  
peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in  
worship before you.

Come, **let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.**



O Key of David, royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven:

Come, **break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.**

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

Come, **shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**

O Ruler of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, keystone of the mighty arch of humankind:

Come, **save the creatures you fashioned from the dust.**

O Emmanuel, ruler and lawgiver, desire of the nations, savior of all people:

Come, **set us free, O Lord our God.**

And now, as we prepare for Emmanuel, God-*with-us*, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*Each petition ends with:*

The Almighty has done great things for us  
**and holy is his Name.**

*The Prayers of the People conclude with:*

... and holy is your Name now and forevermore. **Amen.**

"O Antiphons" from *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* by Bobby Gross and Lauren F. Winner.

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<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/advent-in-church-and-cultural-tradition-11623364.html>

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<http://www.rickmorley.com/archives/2170>

**HOMILY** "For Nothing Is Impossible With God"

Rev. Ken Anderson

**A TIME FOR SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

GATHERING + WORD + **MEAL** + SENDING

## THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

### THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

“Create In Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #185

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

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## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And

so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

ELW #414 (verse 2)

***Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"***

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At the end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

## **THE COMMUNION MEAL**

*(Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Please note that Gluten-free wafers are also available — just ask the assistant at the time you commune.)*

### **A note to those visiting with us:**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. In this meal Jesus offers his grace, forgiveness, and presence to all. To learn more about the gifts of God's grace given in Baptism and Holy Communion, please speak with the pastor after worship.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

"Away in a Manger"

ELW #277

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.***

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Let us pray together:*

**Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.**

**Amen.**

**GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + *SENDING***

### **BENEDICTION**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

A musical score for the word 'Amen' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score is written for a piano accompaniment with two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - - - men.' are written below the notes. The first two measures are 'A - men,' and the last two measures are 'a - - - men.' with a long horizontal line under the 'a' in the third measure, indicating a long note or a sustained sound.

## **SENDING HYMN**

**"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**

**ELW #282**

***It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.***

***Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.***

***And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!***

***For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Please stay after the service for  
our Semi-Annual  
Congregational meeting!***