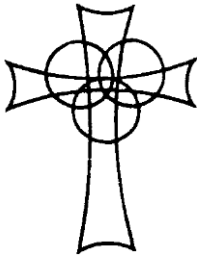
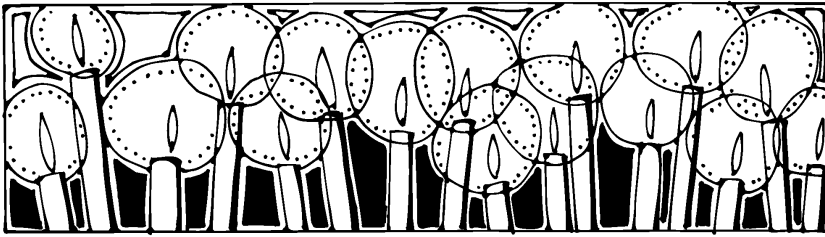


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org



A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete – Rejoice! - Sunday
DECEMBER 17, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Welcome! The Pastor and People of Trinity Lutheran are glad that you are joining us in worship today. During this Advent Season we rejoice in the coming of Jesus Christ among His people, not only in His birth as a man, but also as we receive Him as even now He comes to us in His Word and Sacraments and as we wait for His coming again in glory. We pray that you will meet your Savior in our worship today as we joyfully celebrate Him who comes among His people, Jesus Christ our Lord.

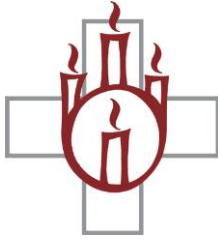
PRAYER UPON ENTERING WORSHIP

Stir up the wills of Your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of Your prophets, that, anointed by Your Spirit, we may testify to Your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONCERNING HOLY COMMUNION

Lutherans believe that in this Sacrament the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are present in, with, and under the physical elements of bread and wine. And this Sacrament is distributed to the Baptized of the Church who believe in the Presence of Christ in the Sacrament, sincerely repent of their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this Holy Meal. Those who are present at this celebration who are baptized, have been instructed in the meaning of this Supper, and believe likewise are welcome to commune with us at this Altar today. Anyone who desires, child or adult, may come forward to receive a blessing.

Persons who have questions about what Lutherans believe or have any spiritual concerns are asked to speak with an Usher so that they can direct you to the Pastor so that you may speak with him before communing.



THE DIVINE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Divine Service, Setting Four
Lutheran Service Book
Page 203ff

✠ *In the Name of Jesus Christ* ✠

✠ **The Preparation** ✠

The Flute & Piano Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Words of Welcome

The Congregation rises.

The Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 345

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

The Invocation:

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

The Confession of Sins and Absolution:

- P** Our Help is in the Name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** **Amen.**



✠ The Service of the Word ✠

The Introit of the Day

Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon: verse 7

- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

The *Kyrie Eleison*:

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Congregation is seated.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. ...
⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Trinity Singers

“Something Special”

The Congregation rises.



The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles’ Creed:

G **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.
Amen.**

The Congregation is seated.

The Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 933

“My Soul Rejoices”



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955; Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002353

Tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Advent Words of Grace: Joy
Text: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Congregation rises.

The Prayer of the Church:

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Let us pray for all the baptized, that they may greatly rejoice in the gifts that God has given them through the sacred washing of water and the Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all servants of the Church—for pastors and missionaries; for teachers, directors of Christian education and outreach; deaconesses and other Church workers; for congregational leaders and all who volunteer their service—that God would grant His favor in their vocations and grant them energy and zeal to carry out their responsibilities with diligence and faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for our Trinity and Mekane Yesus congregations, and for all congregations during this season of Advent, that they may be places free from grumbling and that they would remain steadfast in God’s Word as they patiently wait for the coming of the Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those that God has appointed to civic leadership, that they would govern wisely, administer justice fairly and not abuse the authority that has been granted them. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those traveling this season to celebrate the Nativity with family and friends, that they reach their destinations safely, that their time with loved ones be joyful, and that they return home without incident. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those seeking employment, that God would grant them suitable and fulfilling employment and that He would lead them to see their employment as a gift from Him, by which He takes care of their bodies and lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Let us pray for the hungry and homeless, that God would provide food and shelter for them, and that those with plenty would give and use their resources generously to assist them in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those sick and suffering in any way, especially _____, that in the midst of their afflictions, the good news of God's salvation from sin and death may lead them to rejoice in Him and trust Him for deliverance and healing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who mourn the death of loved ones, that the Lord would comfort them with His victory over death and with the assurance that their loved ones who have departed in the faith join the whole company of heaven in singing praises to the living Lamb. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who give thanks for the wondrous blessings that God has showered on them, especially _____, that they may ever return thanks to the Giver of all good gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for all the people and other concerns that are committed to our thoughts and prayers, especially _____, and all the other petitions which we present to the Lord from the things unspoken and hidden in our hearts..., and we pray that God who knows all and sees all would give His gracious and wise attention to our needs and desires, conforming all things to His holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who today receive the true Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus in the fellowship of this altar, that they may remember Christ's once-for-all sacrificial death on their behalf and receive its benefits as they eat and drink His Holy Supper. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Together with all the saints, especially with Daniel and the Three Young Men, Adam and Eve, Katherina von Bora Luther, St. Thomas, and all the faithful who now rest from their labors, we praise and honor Christ's glorious Name. And we pray that as we continue though life, we like them may have a firm faith in His salvation for us and come to share with them in the feast of joy which has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace:

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

The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C And also with you.

The Congregation is seated.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

The Hymn of Preparation

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 344

“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 Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, 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.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite; Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

The Congregation rises.

The Preface Dialogue:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:


The *Sanctus*:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer:

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His Body and Blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
- C** **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 Words of Our Lord:

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The *Pax Domini*:

- P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**



The Agnus Dei:

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Congregation is seated.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated in this place in the joyful confidence that Jesus Christ Himself comes to us to give us in bread and wine His very Body and Blood to offer to us the forgiveness of sins. All Baptized Christians who have been instructed in the meaning of this Sacrament and confess with us Christ's Real Presence in this Holy Meal are welcome to commune with us at this Altar. A fuller explanation of what Lutherans believe concerning Holy Communion may be found on page one of this worship folder.

Holy Communion is distributed to the congregation at the chancel rail. Please follow the direction of the ushers to make your way to the Altar. You may kneel or stand as you feel comfortable. The Sacrament is distributed in the following manner...Please extend your hand to the assistant to receive the Body of Christ. Christ's Blood may be received in one of two ways, using that which you feel most comfortable: 1) individual cups containing wine and white grape juice will be offered by the Pastor, or 2) drinking from the chalice. Children and those not wishing to receive the Sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Music During the Distribution:

“Come, Yahweh, Come” – The Trinity Singers

The Congregation rises.

The Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The Post-Communion Collect:

P Let us pray.

O Lord our God, in the celebration of Your Sacrament You have given us the true Body and Blood of Your Son; grant that this Holy Supper may make us strong in the hope of our salvation, that we may joyfully await the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ in power and majesty; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The *Benedicamus* and Benediction:

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.



The Hymn to Depart

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 338

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Postlude

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

✠ To God Be All Praise and Glory! ✠

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from *Lutheran Service Book*

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Instrumental Music used as a part of this service and livestream is used by permission under One License.net # A-726993

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

THOSE WHO SERVE US THIS MORNING IN WORSHIP

The Celebrant & Preacher

The Lector

The Communion Assistant

The Worship Assistant

The Choir

The Flutist

The Parish Musician

The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel

Tracy Peele

Paul Ritter

Paul Ritter

The Trinity Singers

Susan Kennedy

Skip Hall

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NOTES AND NEWS

The flowers on the Altar today have been given to the Glory of God by Skip Hall, in honor of his wife, Rachel's, birthday.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ... Copies of the *Lutheran Service Book* in Large Print are available for use during worship for those who may have need of them. You may find them on the literature table at the rear of the sanctuary, and please return them there following the service.

PORTALS OF PRAYER ... Copies of the January-March 2024 edition of our church's daily devotional guide can be picked up from the literature table at the rear of the sanctuary, and both regular and large print versions are available.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ... have arrived! This annual aid to stewardship is available for you to pick up on the literature table in the rear of the nave. If you do not see a set prepared for you and would like to have one for your use, please speak with Pastor and he will be sure that a set is made ready to be given to you. The envelope in the front of the box marked Initial Offering is to be used to help offset the cost of the envelopes for the church. A suggested offering is \$12.00.

UPCOMING DATES AS WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS:

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service
Monday, December 25 at 9:30 AM	Christmas Day Festival Divine Service
Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 AM	Divine Service with Christmas Carol Sing <i>No Bible Class</i>
Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 AM	Epiphany Celebration Festival Divine Service
Saturday, January 13 at 10 AM	Church Undecorating

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS...Help us to beautify our church by purchasing poinsettias to adorn our Lord's Altar as we celebrate His Birth. The poinsettias will be placed on the Altar for our Christmas services, and you may take them to decorate your home after service on either Christmas Day or the Sunday following. Each poinsettia costs \$10.00 and the order forms and dedication information are due **Today, December 17th**. Order slips are available on the literature table in the rear of the nave.

OUR PRAYER LIST ... We are pleased to have an active ministry of prayer among us, attested by the weekly "O Christ, Hear Us" page in the bulletin, inviting us all to remember these persons and needs in our prayer during worship at Trinity and in our own personal prayers during the week. We kindly ask you to also help us keep this list current and up to date by letting us know of any changes or deletions which need to be made. To do this please contact Pastor or the church office with a note that can be placed in the offering basket at church, or with an email.

ALTAR FLOWERS ... The flower chart for **2024** is now available for you to donate floral arrangements to adorn the Lord's Altar in honor of special occasions or in memory of loved ones. The chart can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. The donation for a single arrangement is now **\$45.00**, the increase owing mainly to delivery charges. If you have any questions, please contact Rona by calling the church office or by email (trinity-elc-office@verizon.net).

LUTHERAN RADIO ONLINE AND ON THE AIR FOR YOU THIS WEEK:

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfuoradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfuoradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuoradio).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Look ahead to the Fourth Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (December 20 at 10:00 a.m. ET), dive into Advent hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 12:00 p.m. ET), and study 1 Corinthians 15-16 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. ET). The 12 Days of Christmas begins December 24 with music and messages for the Christmas Season! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR ... This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him. Listen to the Lutheran Hour next Sunday, December 24, 2023, for a message from Lutheran Hour Speaker, the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, "Community and Conversation", locally on WFAX 1220 AM or 100.7 FM at 11:00 AM and 10:00 PM, as well as at 5:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Saturdays. If you are out of the radio station's range you may listen online to WFAX worldwide at WFAX.com. The Lutheran Hour can also be heard online on KFUE.org on Sundays at 12:30 PM and 5:00 PM. For more information on this media ministry, or to listen to messages on demand, visit the Lutheran Hour Ministries website at lhm.org, under "Media" and "The Lutheran Hour".



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS ... In our weekly Prayer of the Church, the final petition is dedicated to all of the Faithful Departed who are now with the Lord and a part of the Church Triumphant. As a part of this remembrance, we recall by name the saints who are on the calendar of Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations of our church and remembered during the current week. Some have asked for more information about these saints; so, biographies for each saint, along with a prayer and suggested Scripture readings, are now available for you on our church website.

THIS WEEK'S FEAST AND COMMEMORATIONS...

- December 17 **Daniel**, *Old Testament Prophet*, and
The Three Young Men, *Old Testament Saints*
(Hananiah [Shadrach], Mishael [Meshach], & Azariah [Abednego])
See Daniel 1-3
- December 19 **Adam and Eve**, *First Parents*
- December 20 **Katherina von Bora Luther**, *Wife of Martin Luther*
- December 21 **St. Thomas**, *Apostle*

Visit <http://tlcmr.org/worship/celebrating-the-saints/> where you can learn more about the cycle of saints' days on the church calendar and find the biographies for each saint listed by month.



COMPASSION CENTER NEWS... Our Compassion Center is open and is serving members of our community with their needs for food and clothing. If you are able to volunteer during the Center's open hours, please contact Elma. Thank you all for your continued help and support and prayers.

In an effort to keep the cupboards full at the Compassion Center during this ongoing time of need in our community, we will continue to need your generous donations of food. All non-perishable foods are welcome, and especially needed items include:

Peanut Butter; Pasta; Pasta Sauce; Macaroni & Cheese; Canned Tuna and Chicken;
Canned Fruit; Soup.

Clothing donations are also welcome. There is a need for boys' and men's clothing, especially pants.

There is also a need for diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, and 6.

Donations can be dropped off at the Center during Center hours. And you can also leave your donations at church, and we will make sure that they are delivered to the Compassion Center. Thank you for your loving and generous support.

Center Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays: 10 AM – 4 PM
Wednesdays: 10 AM – 2 PM

Elma Pervaiz, Coordinator, LMS Compassion Center, Hyattsville, MD
Center Phone Number: 301-277-2302, ext. 23

PREPARING FOR THE COMING SUNDAY ...

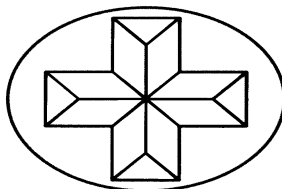
December 24, 2023

Morning Service: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

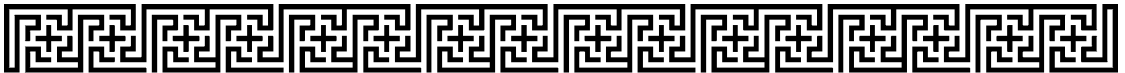
Evening Service: The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 – 24
May Be Subject to Change

Today	<i>The Third Sunday in Advent</i>
	8:30 AM Bible Study
	9:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion (at church in person and via Facebook Live)
	10:45 AM Trinity Singers Rehearsal
	12:00 PM EECMYM Worship (at church in person)
Monday	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Compassion Center Open
Tuesday	9:00 AM—Noon Church Office Open
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Compassion Center Open
Wednesday	9:00 AM—Noon Church Office Open
	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Compassion Center Open
Thursday	9:00 AM—Noon Church Office Open
Next Sunday	<i>The Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>
	8:30 AM Bible Study
	9:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion (at church in person and via Facebook Live)
	12:00 PM EECMYM Worship (at church in person)
	<i>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve</i>
	7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion



CHURCH STATISTICS

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Worship Attendance: 22; Communed: 22.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 2023:

Offerings received for the month: (4 Sundays): \$9,022

Income needed in November to meet the budget: \$10,829

✠ **O Christ, Hear Us!** ✠

Intercessions for the Week of December 17, 2023

Prayers for Continued Healing and Help

For Members of Our Trinity Family:

John, Diane, Julie & Kenny, Diane, John Tyler, Waymond, Paul, Alan, Kate, August, David, Ernie, Paul, Shirley, and Angela

For Those Who Have Asked of Our Prayers:

Luke, grandson of Charlie & Jean; Betty, mother of Helen;
Susan, relative of Gus & Betty; Joe, friend of Cullen; Britnany, niece of Lynda;
Juliet, mother of Ras-I; Linda, daughter of Gus & Betty;
Dennis & Caron, former Concordia School Teachers; Jari, former Concordia Teacher;
Catelyn, step-granddaughter of Ernie; Nathan, son of Art; Helen, aunt of Judy;
Bernie, friend of Trinity; Robin, daughter of Vincent & Tracy;
Denise, friend of Dave & Joyce; Ralph, uncle of Vincent & Tracy;
Cynthia, friend of Kim; Craig, friend of the Praticos; Oliver, son of David & Lisbeth;
Doris, mother of Vincent; Dee, Godmother of David; Tyler, son of coworker of Paul;
Orbelina & Family, mother of former Concordia Students; Evelyn, aunt of Judy;
Phillip & Amanda and Family, friends of Michelle; Kay & Bob, relatives of Carole;
Billy, friend of Judy; Kumar, co-worker's spouse of Joyce;
Joan & Family, co-worker of Tracy; The Joneses, friend of Tracy

Thanksgivings and Blessings

Rachel Hall, Alex Joynes, Anthony Ramdass, Jack Redman, Wyatt Pfeifer, Baine Casto, and Sarah McCoyer, who celebrate their birthdays this week.

We Keep In Our Prayers

- ✠ Our Trinity family, our ministries, and our mission.
- ✠ Pastor Gugssa Biru and the people of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Maryland.
- ✠ For the Lord to continue to move the hearts of our Trinity Members to a deeper realization of our part in His mission to the world and to be *Ablaze!* with a desire to tell the Good News about Jesus with those whom we come into contact in our lives.

- ✘ For the work of our Compassion Center, for Elma Pervaiz, our center coordinator, and for Redeemer Lutheran and the Lutheran Mission Society, our mission partners.
- ✘ Our government leaders, and for the members of our armed forces.
- ✘ For peace and justice among the residents of our nation's cities and towns where there is unrest from fear and distrust.
- ✘ For an end to racism and bigotry in our nation and world.
- ✘ For all those still affected and recovering from the effects of natural disasters.
- ✘ For our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer persecution for the faith and Name of Jesus, even to the point of shedding their blood.
- ✘ For peace in our world, especially in those places that are affected by war, oppression, or acts of terror.
- ✘ For all those we know who are sick, who grieve, and who are in any need of prayer.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Sunday Mornings:
Adult Bible Study – 8:30 AM
Worship with Holy Communion – 9:30 AM

*Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook Live
For more information, please visit the church website.*

Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor



*We Are a Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

