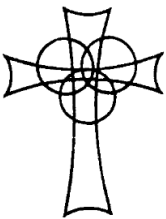


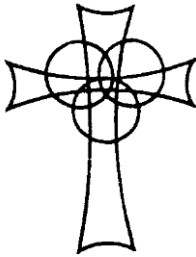
Love

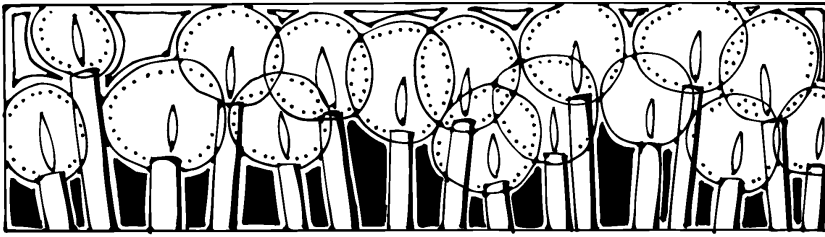


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org



A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Vigil of Christmas
DECEMBER 24, 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 Your power, Lord Christ, and come. With Your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct Your mercy, that willingly we may bear Your redeeming love to all the world, for You live and reign with the Father 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 Music for Meditation

The Prelude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

The Words of Welcome

The Congregation rises.

The Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 332

“Savior of the Nations, Come”



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

The Hymn continues on the next page...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.</p> | <p>7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.</p> |
| <p>6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.</p> | <p>△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.</p> |

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002353
Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

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 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

C **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

C **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

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 Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you.

And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—
²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation rises.

The Gradual and Verse of the Day:

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.
 Matthew 1:23a*

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
 Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

C **Behold, your king is coming to you;
 righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

P Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C **and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Apostles' Creed:

C **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 # 356

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

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The Sermon

Advent Words of Grace: Love

Text: Luke 1:26-38

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** Lord, the time of preparation is almost over and Your visitation is near. Keep us focused on the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. May it bring about the obedience of faith in us and all who hear Your Word this season. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, You continue to provide servants for Your Church to proclaim the coming of Your Son. Be with all professional church workers as they work to serve Your people with the gifts of Word and Sacrament, especially at this Holy Time. Allow them to boldly speak the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed in Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of the nations, look with mercy upon all those throughout the world who make, administer and judge the laws of their lands. May they use their authority wisely and according to Your will, defending justice, protecting the innocent and vulnerable, and seeking the peace of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, we thank You for those who look out for our well-being and protect us from harm. Give Your blessing and protection to police, to firefighters, to medical workers, to the members of our armed forces and to all first responders whose vocations put them on the front lines of danger, trouble and disaster. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, nothing is impossible with You. You sent Your Son into the world to be the great physician of body and soul. Give to _____ and to all who are ill comfort and healing, if it be Your will, and patience and trust that come what may, You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, You promise rest to Your faithful ones. Be present with Your comfort and peace with all those who mourn, that they may have hope in Your Son's return to give resurrection and life at the appearing of Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You are the Giver of every good gift. Grant Your continued blessing to _____ and to us all that we may all rejoice in the great things You do for us each day of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You graciously hear the prayers of Your children. Hear us now as we make intercession to You for _____ and for all those people and concerns we lift to You from the silence of our hearts ... Receive all of our petitions, and grant what we ask for the sake of Your Son and according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, even as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Your Son, He comes to us in the Sacrament of the Altar. May all who receive the bread and wine, that is the Body and Blood of Jesus, do so for the strengthening of faith and the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, while we await the coming of Your Son, we remember with thanksgiving the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, St. John, the Holy Innocents, King David, and all those who were before us in the faith and are now with You. Keep and preserve us in the one true faith to life everlasting until You bring us together with them into Your eternal Kingdom. 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 In the tender mercy of our God, the Dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 # 333

“Once He Came in Blessing”



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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Text (sts. 1, 4) 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. We give You thanks because His future coming was proclaimed by the prophets. The Virgin Mother bore Him in her womb with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was His herald and made Him known when at last He came. In His love, Christ has filled us with joy, as we prepare for to celebrate His birth, so that when He comes He may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. As we wait, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His Body and Blood, given us to eat and to 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.

The Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 357

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

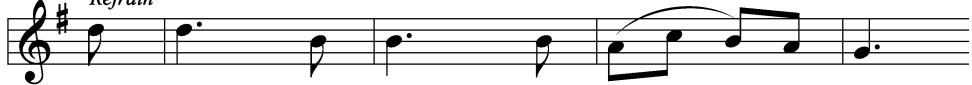


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou 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, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

The Hymn concludes on the next page...

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain*

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 lead 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 # 352

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
 That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith,
 Safely kept through life and death.</p> | <p>6 Then when You will come again
 As the glorious King to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.</p> |
|--|--|

*Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
 Text and tune: Public domain*

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Postlude

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

✠ To God Be All Praise and Glory! ✠

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from *Lutheran Service Book*

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THOSE WHO SERVE US THIS MORNING IN WORSHIP


The Celebrant & Preacher
The Lector
The Communion Assistant
The Worship Assistant
The Parish Musician

The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel
Waymond Joynes
Helen Joynes
Paul Ritter
Skip Hall





CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023

Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023

Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

The First Sunday after Christmas

Eve of the Circumcision and Holy Name of Jesus

New Year's Eve – December 31, 2023

No Adult Bible Class

Festival Worship Service with Christmas Carol Sing and Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

Celebration of The Epiphany and The Baptism of our Lord:

The First Sunday after the Epiphany – Sunday, January 7, 2024

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class at 8:30 AM

Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!



NOTES AND NEWS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS... We thank all those who helped to beautify the Lord's House for the celebration of Christ's birth with the donation of poinsettias. These gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletins for our services on Christmas Eve and Day.

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 CELEBRATE THE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 AM	Divine Service with Christmas Carol Sing
Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 AM	Epiphany Celebration Festival Divine Service
Saturday, January 13 at 10 AM	Church Undecorating

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY ... In this holiday time, we will not hold our Bible Study time together next Sunday, December 31st. Our Bible Studies will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ... During the Christmas Holiday week, December 25-January 2, the church office will be closed to allow our staff to have time at home with their families. The staff will be checking the office answering machine daily for any messages. Should any pastoral emergencies arise during this time, you may also contact Pastor directly on his cell phone: 202-288-0652. The office will return to full staffing on Tuesday, January 3rd.

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/kfuo), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfuo), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuo).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUE Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born! Hear your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR ... When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start. Listen to the Lutheran Hour next Sunday, December 31, 2023, for a message from Guest Speaker, the Rev. Dr. John Nunes, "The Exit from Regret", 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 FEASTS AND COMMEMORATION...

- December 24-25 **The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**
December 26 **Saint Stephen**, *Deacon and First Martyr* (see Acts 6-7)
December 27 **Saint John**, *Apostle and Evangelist of the Fourth Gospel*
December 28 **The Holy Innocents**, *Martyrs of Bethlehem*
(see Matthew 2:16-18)
December 29 **David**, *Old Testament King and Prophet*

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.

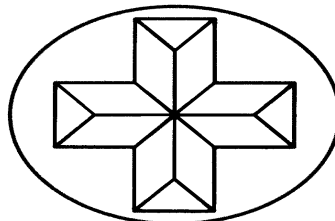
Center Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays: 10 AM – 4 PM
Wednesdays: 10 AM – 2 PM

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

PREPARING FOR THE COMING SUNDAY ...

The First Sunday after Christmas; The Eve of the Circumcision and Holy Name of Jesus,
December 31, 2023

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:21-40



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24 – 31
May Be Subject to Change

Today	<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 (at church in person and via Facebook Live)	
Monday	<i>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day</i>
	9:30 AM Christmas Day Festival Worship with Holy Communion (at church in person and via Facebook Live)
	12:00 PM EECMYM Christmas Worship (at church in person)
This Week	Church Office Closed
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Compassion Center Open
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Compassion Center Open
Saturday	6:00 PM EECMYM Prayer Service (at church in person)
Next Sunday	<i>The First Sunday after Christmas</i>
	<i>The Eve of the Circumcision and Holy Name of Jesus</i>
	<i>New Year's Eve</i>
	No Adult Bible Study
	9:30 AM Divine Service with Christmas Carol Sing and Holy Communion (at church in person and via Facebook Live)
12:00 PM EECMYM Worship (at church in person)	
9:00 PM EECMYM New Year's Service (at church in person)	





CHURCH STATISTICS

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Worship Attendance: 20; Communed: 20.

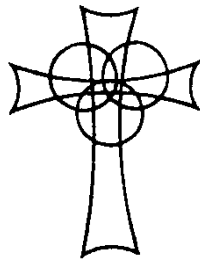
Worship Attendance statistics for the services during the Days of Christmas will be published in the January 7, 2024 Bulletin

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 24, 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;
Victor, co-worker of Paul; Edward, friend of Rona & Paul

Thanksgivings and Blessings

Cullen Elias, Beatrice Kelly, Noel Pratico, and Alana Sandiford, 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*

