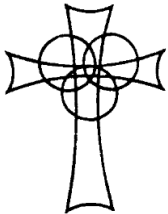




# Rejoice in the Lord Always... The Lord Is at Hand

Philippians 4:4-5



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

4000 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street

*at the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Bunker Hill Road*

Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

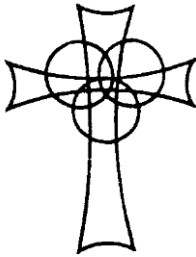
*The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor*

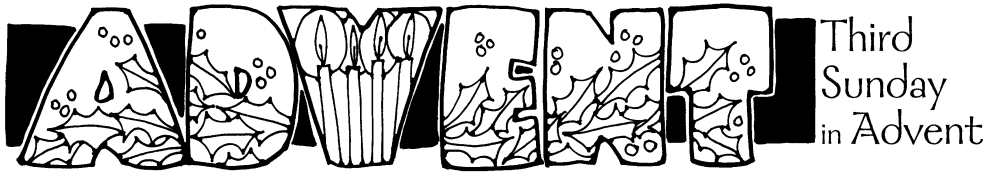
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340

Church Web Site: [www.tlcmr.org](http://www.tlcmr.org)



*A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*





*Gaudete – Rejoice - Sunday*  
**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

***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 preaching of John, that, rejoicing in Your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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 Music for Meditation

The Prelude

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

The Words of Welcome

*The Congregation rises.*

The Opening Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 347*

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
 Text 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 146:5-8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

**C** **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

**P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;

**C** **who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.**

**P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**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** Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

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

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*The Congregation rises.*



The Gradual and Verse:

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.  
Matthew 11:10b*

- 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, I send my messenger before your face,
- C** **who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18-35*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup>(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

<sup>31</sup>“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?

<sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

<sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

**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 # 515

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

*Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.*

*Tune: Swedish*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

The Sermon

Rejoice Always!(?!)

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

*The Congregation rises.*



The Prayer of the Church:

- P** Let us come before the throne of God's grace and present our petitions with confidence in the Spirit through our Lord Jesus to His heavenly Father, for He is kind and full of compassion.
- P** King of Israel, You call us from lives of fear to rest in Your unfailing embrace and be comforted by Your jubilant song. Help all Your baptized people to cast off anxiety and turn to you quickly in prayer for every need, that they might know Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of Jacob, You sent Your Son into the flesh to gather Your people home to You. Strengthen all pastors and servants of the Church to speak Your mighty Word with clarity and passion, and by Your Spirit open the hearts of all who hear to trust Him who heals the sick, raises the dead and proclaims good news to the poor. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, You set the prisoners free. Your Son freed the disciples of St. John the Baptist from their fears and made them witnesses to His mighty deeds by commanding them to go and tell what they had seen and heard. Give to us, Your people, grace in these Advent days to proclaim boldly to all the world the mighty deeds of our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Ruler of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that fills them, remember in kindness all those called to public service in our world, in our nation, and in our communities, especially all who serve in our armed forces. Give them wisdom to know what is just and courage to pursue the same, that all people might be preserved from discord and be mightily protected against all enemies. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of all compassion, You lift up those who are bowed down. Remember in Your boundless love all who take treatments, the hospitalized, the lonely, and the ill, especially\_\_\_\_. Quiet them with Your love, comfort them with Your presence, and let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord of time and eternity, You bless each and every day of our lives with Your love and mercy. Be with all those who rejoice in Your goodness to them, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and help us all to acknowledge You as the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of comfort, You sent Your Son to heal our griefs. Deal compassionately with all those who mourn the earthly loss of loved ones [*especially*\_\_\_\_\_]. Help them to see that You are the Lord of life who has triumphed over death and the grave and that You give eternal life to all who have fallen asleep trusting in Your grace and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Tender Savior, You look with compassion and love upon all those You have redeemed. To Your care we commend all those who have asked for our prayers. Especially we remember before You \_\_\_\_\_ and all the people and concerns which we name now in the silence of our hearts... Hear all of these prayers, we beseech You, and answer them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Faithful One, You keep Your promises and You give to the hungry food. Grant all who come to Your altar today to receive in joy and faith the gift of their Savior's Body and Blood that they rejoice in the Lord always. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord our God, Your Son lightens the darkness of our hearts by His gracious visitation. We give You thanks for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Young Men, Adam and Eve, Katherina von Bora Luther, St. Thomas, and all Your servants who have departed this life in His fear and friendship. We beg You to keep us in communion with them and to strengthen in us the joyful and certain hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting as we await our Savior's glorious appearing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** These things and whatever else You know us to need, most Holy Father, grant us for the sake of Him who is the King of Israel, the Lord who is in our midst, and who now 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 # 345*

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is the  
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!

*Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.*

*Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89*

*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!

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.*

## The Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 357

## "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



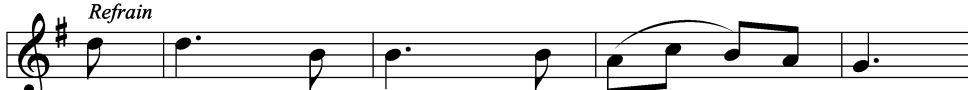
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



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 Cantionum 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 # 343*

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

*Sung to the Tune in the Old Blue Hymnal # 27*

**1** Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God’s Word!

**2** God’s people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal King!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God’s promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

*The Hymn continues on the next page...*

**3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised King!  
Your King, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain**

**Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain**

*Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.*

*Tune: BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN, Swedish Folk Tune, 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

*Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002353*

*Tune: Public Domain*

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Postlude

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

✠ *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  
George Kurtzweil  
Helen Joynes  
Paul Ritter  
Skip Hall

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

**NOTES AND NEWS**

*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.

*THANK YOU* ... to all those who helped to decorate and prepare our church home for the celebration of Christmas yesterday. Everything looks wonderful and is putting us into the “mood” of this holy and joyful season.

*ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING* ... Following worship **TODAY** we are holding our Congregation’s annual meeting to attend to the business of our Parish. We hope that all voting members will be able to attend as we look forward to another year of ministry together. If you have any questions or concerns in advance of the meeting, please speak with Helen Joynes, our congregation president, or with any member of the Ministry Planning Group,

*PORTALS OF PRAYER* ... Copies of the January-March 2025 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.

*2025 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:*

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service
Wednesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM	Christmas Day Festival Divine Service
Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 AM	Divine Service with Christmas Carol Sing
Sunday, January 5 at 9:30 AM	Epiphany Festival Divine Service
Saturday, January 11 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 \$12.00 and the order forms and dedication information are due **Today**. 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 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](http://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 kfuo.org:** Tune in to Sharper Iron as we continue our study of Isaiah (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. ET) and wrap up the Gospel of John with the Resurrection account on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 12:00 p.m. ET). Don't forget to join us for this week's edition of Joy!, featuring sacred music for the Advent season. You can find the full program schedule at [kfuo.org/joy!](http://kfuo.org/joy!)

*THE LUTHERAN HOUR* ... Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again. Listen to the Lutheran Hour next Sunday, December 22, 2024, for this message from Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, "Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?", 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](http://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.

(Cans with flip open tops are especially helpful as we serve our homeless clients.)

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 ...*

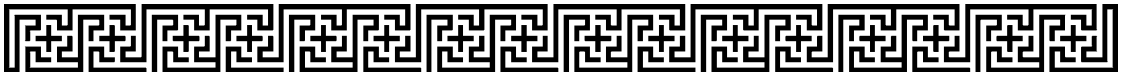
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22, 2024

Scripture Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56



**PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15 – 22**  
*May Be Subject to Change*

<b>Today</b>	<b><i>The Third Sunday in Advent: Gaudete – Rejoice - Sunday</i></b>
	9:30 AM                      Worship Service with Holy Communion (at church in person and via Facebook Live)
	10:45 AM                    Voter’s Assembly Meeting
	12:00 PM                    EECMYM Worship (at church in person)
<b>Monday</b>	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM      Compassion Center Open
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 AM—Noon            Church Office Open
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM      Compassion Center Open
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 AM—Noon            Church Office Open
	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM      Compassion Center Open
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 AM—Noon            Church Office Open
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b><i>The Fourth Sunday in Advent</i></b>
	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)



**CHURCH STATISTICS**

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Worship Attendance: 21; Communed: 21.

***MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 2024:***

General Offerings received (4 Sundays): \$10,156

General Offerings needed to meet the budget: \$11,027

Withdrawals from Thrivent (money market): \$2,000

Balance in Thrivent mutual funds: ~\$53,763

*We’re still planning for our upcoming sidewalk repairs (~\$13,000).*

✠ **O Christ, Hear Us!** ✠

**Intercessions for the Week of December 15, 2024**

**Prayers for Continued Healing and Help**

*For Members of Our Trinity Family:*

John, Julie & Kenny, Diane, Travis, Waymond, August, David, Tracy, Ernie, Paul, and Angela

*For Those Who Have Asked of Our Prayers:*

Luke, grandson of Charlie & Jean; Betty, mother of Helen;  
Susan, relative of Gus & Betty; 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; Bernie, friend of Trinity; Robin, daughter of Vincent & Tracy;  
Doris, mother of Vincent; Orbelina & Family, mother of former Concordia Students;  
Phillip & Amanda and Family, friends of Michelle; Kay & Bob, relatives of Carole;  
Kumar, co-worker's spouse of Joyce; Craig, husband of Edith; Virginia, mother of Sam;  
Steve, father-in-law of Michelle; Denise, fiancée of Mark; Lori, friend of Carole;  
Aidan & Family, friends of Joyce; Raymond, brother of Joy;  
Nancy & Family, sister of Vincent; Joyce, friend of Tracy; Daniel, friend of Cullen;  
Donald, friend of Cullen; Mr. Emanuel, husband of Shelda;  
Mary, former Concordia Teacher; Ralph, relative of Carole

**Thanksgivings and Blessings**

Katherine Hines, Alex Joynes, Wyatt Pfeifer, and Sarah Lydia 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.

- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Our government leaders, and for the members of our armed forces.
- ✘ For all those affected and recovering from the effects of natural disasters.
- ✘ For peace and reconciliation that brings an end to racism and bigotry in our nation and world.
- ✘ For calm, civility, and peace in our nation's political discourse, especially during this time of our country's leadership transition.
- ✘ For peace in our neighborhoods and for an end to violence.
- ✘ For the students, teachers, and staff in our educational institutions.
- ✘ For all those we know who are sick, who grieve, and who are in any need of prayer.



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

***Sunday Mornings:***  
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](http://www.tlcmr.org)  
*The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor*



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

