

THE GIFTS OF
SPEECH
AND
SILENCE

TRINITY LUTHERAN - 7 DEC 25

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN:

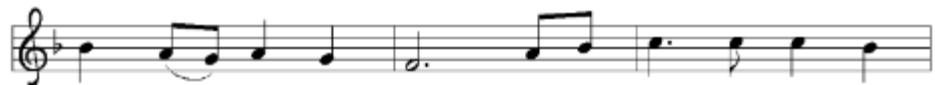
All Are Welcome (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro-

Refrain



Christ shall end di - vi - sions: Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
claim the faith of Je - sus: end to fear and dan - ger:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy God,
You speak creation into being,
and You meet us beside the still silent waters.
Yet we confess that we have misused both speech and silence.

**We confess the times we have remained silent
when Your love called us to speak—
silent in the face of injustice,
silent when others needed encouragement,
silent when our faith asked for witness.**

**We also confess the times we have spoken
when silence would have been wiser—
careless words that wounded,
rushed words that overwhelmed,
self-centered words that ignored Your presence.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Quiet every fear that keeps us from speaking truth,
and hush every word that does not reflect Your grace.**

Teach us the holiness of silence
and the power of Spirit-formed speech to renew our voices with grace.
Amen.

ADVENT PRAYER

We light a second candle in our wreath today for the second Sunday of Advent.

For this time of waiting and watching for the coming of our Savior,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

When the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words,
we cry to you, O Lord.

For the hope that shines through the darkest night,
we turn to you, O Lord.

For the gift of friends and family who walk with us through life,
we praise your name, O Lord.

Gather us all under the promise of your Son,
Amen.

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev'-ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - pas-sioned re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 nour - ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - try for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - try for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - try for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God for whom we long,
we thank you for the gifts of speech and silence.**

**Teach us to listen from our hearts and speak of your love,
that we may shout with Zechariah:**

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
who has remembered his holy covenant
and raised up a mighty Savior.**

**We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
your gift to all the world.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 12:18-24

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,**

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: James 1:17-21

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."

⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Canticle of Zechariah (ELW 250)

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place;

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

In our waiting and watching, as we enter the season of Advent, we come to you in prayer, O God. Teach us to appreciate Your gifts of speech and language, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Your Word reminds us of the power that rests within our words. Help us wield this power with wisdom and grace. Let our speech be filled with life, love, and encouragement. When tempted to speak carelessly, help us choose words that build up rather than tear down.

Come near to all in need, with your holy presence revive our souls. Teach us to use words of kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, peace in depression or anxiety, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers, mentors, friends and pastors. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY:

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (ELW 676)

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y•a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

O God you are a generous giver of gifts

We bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise;
for the gifts we give are your gifts.

Bless them and our lives to your service,
that they may reveal your glory,
nurture faith, and manifest the common good.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in the gift of Holy Communion.

White grape juice is available and all altar bread is gluten-free.
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONGS:

Blessed Be Your Name (B. and A. Redman)
People, Look East (ELW 248)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May the God who meets us in holy silence calm your hearts and steady your steps.

May the Christ who speaks grace into our lives guide your words toward healing and hope.

And may the Spirit who dwells in both quiet and proclamation send you forth to listen deeply, speak truthfully, and live faithfully—

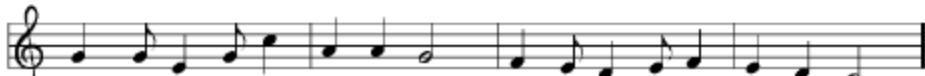
in the name of the Father, and of the ⁺ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Serving in Worship

TODAY — Dec 7, 2025

Reader: James Apronti

Assistant: Lukas Rabie

Fellowship: Denise Greller

NEXT SUNDAY — Dec 14, 2025

Reader: Abby Haff

Assistant: OPEN

Fellowship: Eileen Johnson



Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Dec 7:	9:00am	Advent Worship W/ the Band <i>The Gift of Speech...and Silence</i>
	9:00am	Sunday School in Downstairs Youth Rm
	10:15am	Fellowship Wrapping Party in Gruver Rm
	10:30am	Confirmation behind Gruver Rm
Mon Dec 8:	9:00am	<i>Becoming</i> in Gruver Rm
Tue, Dec 9:	6:00pm	Church Council in Gruver Rm
Wed, Dec 10:	10:00am	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
	5:45pm	Advent Celebration in Gruver Rm
	6:30pm	Worship Service: <i>The Gift of...Teaching</i> w/ D. Greller
Sun, Dec 14:	9:00am	Advent Worship: <i>The Gift of Hope</i>
	9:00am	Sunday School in Downstairs Youth Rm
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm
	10:30am	Does the Bible say...God has a wife?
Mon, Dec 15:	9:00am	<i>Becoming</i> in Gruver Rm
Tue, Dec 16:	5:30pm	TheologyPUB @ Coal Creek Downtown
Wed, Dec 17:	10:00am	Women's Study Christmas Luncheon
	5:45pm	Advent Celebration in Gruver Rm
	6:30pm	Worship Service: <i>The Gift of...Service</i> w/ J. Apronti
Sun, Dec 21:	9:00am	Advent Worship: <i>The Gift of Family</i>
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm

QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING? If you ever have any questions about your financial gifts to Trinity, please contact Trinity's financial secretary, Alison Lebeda, at alebeda@uwyo.edu. If you need an up-to-date statement of giving, please contact the church office.

2025 as of October 31
Income - \$183,898.38
Expenses - \$188,010.52



THE **BIBLE** SAYS SO

*December 14th
Reading Assignment*

Chapters 5 & 6

*Does the Bible Say Slavery is Wrong?
Does the Bible Say God Has a Wife?*

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office: (307) 745-4222  telcofficemanager@gmail.com

Congregation President	Adam Huck
Pastor	Nathan Keith
Accompanist	Trinity Band
Financial Director	Linda Lebeda
Financial Secretary	Alison Lebeda
Sexton	James Apronti
In the Office	Lisa Guarnieri

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS017696. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Used by license.