

A collage of various wrapped gifts and pinecones. The gifts are wrapped in different colors and patterns, including blue with white snowflakes, grey with white stripes, and orange with white polka dots. Some are tied with ribbons, including a prominent orange and white striped one. Pinecones are scattered throughout the collage.

THE GIFT OF *HOPE*

TRINITY LUTHERAN - 14 DEC 25

WELCOME

OPENING LITANY

Based on Readings from Isaiah.

Hope is a candle that flickers yet offers warmth and life.

**The darkness will turn into light,
the moon shine as bright as the sun.**

Hope is a hand that grasps and reaches out in peace.

**The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard lie down with the kid.**

Hope is a song that grows and fills the world with joy.

**The wilderness and dry land will be glad,
the desert rejoice and bloom.**

Hope is a promise of a baby to be born in a manger stall.

A woman will bear a son and name him Immanuel.

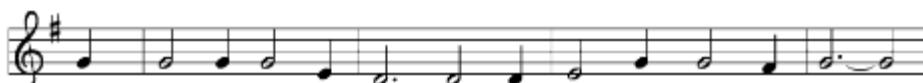
GATHERING HYMN:

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

 = 100



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

God of hope,
we come before you
confessing that we do not always live as people of your promised future.

**We confess that we cling to fears more tightly than to your grace.
We let disappointment overshadow your faithfulness.**

We choose despair when you call us to trust.

In our waiting, we grow impatient.

In our struggles, we forget your presence.

In our world's brokenness, we fail to cling to you.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Lift our eyes to the hope you set before us.

Renew our hearts with the light of Christ.

**Restore in us the courage to hope boldly,
to love fully, to be patient with the process,
and to follow where you lead.**

The child soon born

will fill the hungry with good things and will come to our aid.

In Christ, our hope is never lost, but rather always restored.

Christ bore our failings and gave us resurrection.

We humbly ask you to fill our hearts with such light.

Amen.

ADVENT PRAYER

We light a third candle in our wreath today for the third 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.

ADVENT HYMN:

Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)

 = 155



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, Your word a - lone
 hope, man - y de - spair. Make us your bread,
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your build - ing,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Let us be ser - vants
 hearts that yearn to be - long.

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

**God of everlasting hope,
 you speak light into our darkness
 and promise a future that cannot be taken away.**

**By the power of your Spirit,
 lift our hearts to trust in your faithfulness.**

**When the world feels uncertain,
 anchor us in the hope we have in Christ—
 the One who is, who was, and who is to come.**

Stir in us a courage that endures,

**a patience that waits,
 and a joy that looks for your renewing work in all things.**

**Make us people who carry your hope into every corner of our lives,
 until the fullness of your kingdom is revealed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands
 and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 “Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
 and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
**⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down;**
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the
wicked.
¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could
count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with
palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to
the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and
the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne
and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these,
robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir,
you are the one who knows.”

Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great
ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood
of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 1:46b-55

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

All Earth Is Hopeful (ELW 266)

 = 85

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

As the reader closes each petition:

God of grace,

The people respond:

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

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

OFFERING

Please place offering in one of the Bulletin Stand offering plates at the end of worship as you leave the church.

OFFERTORY:

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!

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; 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

The First Noel (ELW 300)

Thine the Amen (ELW 826)

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 of hope fill you with light for the path, may [☩] Christ surround you with peace, and may the Spirit rekindle your heart with God.

Go in hope and be restored and resurrected.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

♩ = 135



1. O come, all ye faith- ful, 2. The high- est, most ho- ly, 3. Sing, choirs of an- gels, 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap- py morn- ing; come ye, O come ye to Beth- le - hem; born of a vir- gin, a mor- tal he comes; sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove! Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!"



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels: Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing! Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est: Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him.



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num. O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Serving in Worship

TODAY — Dec 14, 2025

Reader: **Abby Haff**

Assistant: **Abby Haff**

Fellowship: **Eileen Johnson**

Next Sunday — Dec 21, 2025

Reader: **Martin Greller**

Assistant: **OPEN**

Fellowship: **OPEN**

Trinity Happenings:

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	Becoming 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...</i> ...Service w/ J. Apronti



Sun, Dec 21:	9:00am	Advent Worship: <i>The Gift of Family</i>
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Dec 22:	9:00am	Becoming in Gruver Rm
Wed, Dec 24:	10:00am	NO Women's Study
	6:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship: <i>The Greatest Gift</i>



Sun, Dec 28:	9:00am	Christmas Worship
	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 November 30
Income - \$208,418.05
Expenses - \$193,653.31



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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