



THE GIFT OF  
*FAMILY*



TRINITY LUTHERAN - 21 DEC 25

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN:

### *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (ELW 251)



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will sc - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim -  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Merciful God,

You create us for life together and bless us with families of every kind.

Yet we confess that we do not always cherish this gift.

We fail to listen with patience,

we speak words that wound,

and we hold onto resentments that fracture our relationships.

We neglect those who depend on us,

and we turn away from those whose stories differ from our own.

Forgive us, Lord.

Restore our hearts with your grace,

heal the places where our families are strained or broken,

and teach us to love as you first loved us.

Make our homes—by birth, by choice, and by faith—places of compassion, belonging, and peace.

God's love for us is steadfast, and God's mercy has no end.

In Jesus Christ, grace meets us in our brokenness,

heals what is wounded,

and restores us to one another.

*J = 115*

Because of him, you are forgiven,  
you are renewed,

and you are invited to live in the peace and hope of God's family.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

## ADVENT PRAYER

*We light the last candle in our wreath today for the fourth 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:

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

You are the One who places us in families  
and binds us together in love.

We thank you for the homes that shaped us,

the people who nurture us,

and the communities who become family by grace.

Strengthen the bonds between us,

heal what is broken,

and help us bear one another's burdens with compassion.

May our families—by birth, by choice, and by faith—

reflect your steadfast love,

that wherever we go, we may carry your blessing

to the generations yet to come.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Ruth 1:11-19a

<sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus to me,  
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!”

<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. <sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

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

## RESPONSIVE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-10, 12-13

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love,  
**I am a noisy gong or a clangling cymbal.**

<sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love,

**I am nothing.**

<sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love,

**I gain nothing.**

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind;

**love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude.**

It does not insist on its own way;

**it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs;**

<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.

<sup>7</sup> **It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends.

**But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.**

<sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part,

<sup>10</sup> **but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.**

<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror,  
**but then we will see face to face.**

Now I know only in part;

**then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.**

<sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three,  
**and the greatest of these is love.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-4:8

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup> there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

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.

## GOSPEL: John 19:23-27

The holy gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

<sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

<sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

*Faith of Our Fathers (ELW 813)*

$\text{♩} = 135$

1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dun - geon,  
2. Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is  
3. Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -  
4. Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who  
fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,  
press - ion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,  
fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross.  
*Refrain*  
when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,  
mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,  
the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O  
un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

## 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 peace let us pray the Lord.

*As the reader closes each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,

*The people respond:*

hear our prayer.

Lord, you are the giver of all good things:

Receive our prayers that we offer for ourselves and for our world.

In all things, grant us the courage

to exercise our gifts from you for the good of the world,

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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:

### *What Child Is This (ELW 296)*

$\text{J} = 125$



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## 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

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)  
Let Us Go Now to the Banquet (ELW 523)*

## 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.

**O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Now may the Spirit's love,  
flowing like water across the face of the earth,  
fill you with every gift for the good of the world.  
And the  blessing of God,  
Eternal Source, Fountain of Life, and Giver of Gifts,  
be with you always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN:

*Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

 = 105



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ecive her king; let ev-ry heart pre-pare him  
songs em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings  
na-tions prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-ness

room and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and na-ture sing. joy,  
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy. found,  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

# Serving in Worship

**TODAY — Dec 21, 2025**

Reader: **Martin Greller**  
Assistant: **James Apronti**  
Fellowship: **OPEN**

**Next Sunday — Dec 28, 2025**

Reader: **Thom Edgar**  
Assistant: **Thom Edgar**  
Fellowship: **OPEN**

## Trinity Happenings:

**Sun, Dec 21:**

9:00am  
10:15am

**Advent Worship: The Gift of Family**  
**Fellowship in Gruver Rm**

**Mon, Dec 22:**

9:00am

**Becoming in Gruver Rm**

**Wed, Dec 24:**

10:00am  
6:30pm

**NO Women's Study**  
**Christmas Eve Worship: The Greatest Gift**



**Sun, Dec 28:**

9:00am  
10:15am

**Your Choices Christmas Carol Worship**  
**Fellowship in Gruver Rm**

## Christmas Carol Sing

9AM AT TRINITY 12.28.25  
YOUR CHOICES!



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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