

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



She will bear a son,
and you are to name him Jesus

MATTHEW 1:21

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Service of Holy Eucharist—Setting 3

To all who join in worship, we are grateful that you are here today!

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament with us. White grape juice is available in the glass chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would like us to bring the bread and wine to you, please notify one of the ushers.
- Nursery attendants are available during worship just off the South Lobby area for children ages 5 years and younger. If you arrive and no one is in the nursery, please notify one of the ushers to get the attendant. A changing table is available in the nursery.
- Pew Pads are located at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass them down to the end of the row so we can note that you attended worship with us today. If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our staff, please inform the Pastor.
- Prayer request cards are in the pew racks. Please hand to an usher during the hymn following the sermon.

WELCOME... We pray this worship time is enriching for your spiritual life.

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (ELW 631)

GREETING

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

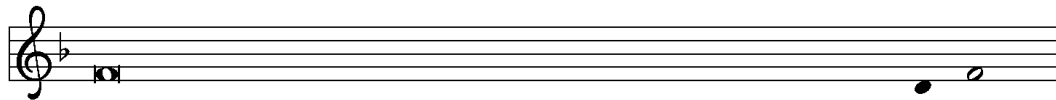
And also with you.



KYRIE



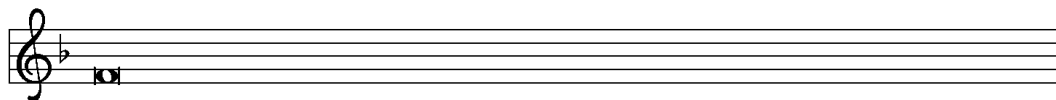
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



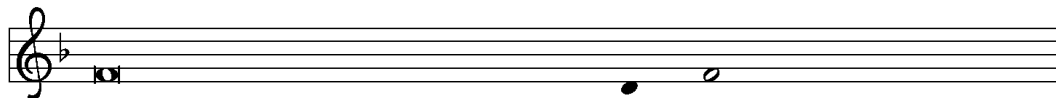
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



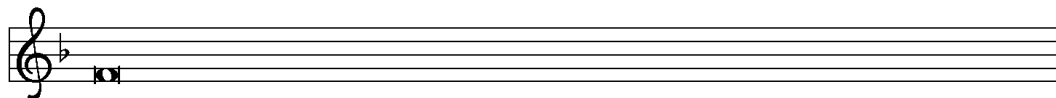
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



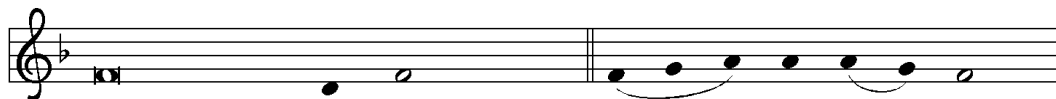
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



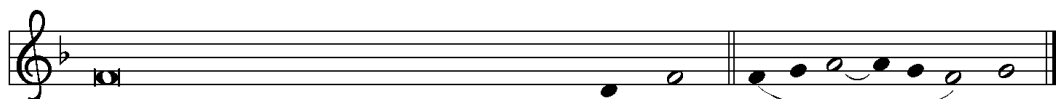
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The psalm for the day is sung.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD| God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
 give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

A reading from Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

All children are welcome to come forward to hear a special message for them.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "He Comes to Us as One Unknown" (ELW 737)

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For the church universal and all servants of the gospel, for poets and artists, for musicians and preachers, and for theologians and teachers; that all proclaim that God is with us in Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all plants and animals, seas and skies, snow and rain, and all of God's marvels; that all of creation grow and thrive as we bless, protect, and use with care what God has made, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations and those in authority, for peace and justice throughout the whole world, and for those who advocate on behalf of others; that all in positions of leadership choose what is good for the community, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the thirsty and hungry, the weak and fearful, those in childbirth, those who mourn, and the sick, especially for Pastor Rachel Larson; Dan Groathouse; Shirley Heggie; Linda Anderson; Lindsey Meyer; Eleanore Barrett; and the family of Norma Deibert; that they know Christ the Anointed One who dries up every tear and comforts those who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who travel near and far, for those who prepare our congregation for worship and celebration, and for those who gather around word and sacrament; that all experience welcome and refreshment, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the saints who have died and are now at rest; that the witness of their faith point us to the promises of grace and resurrection in Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: “*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*” (ELW 182)

The assembly stands and sings the offertory hymn as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shine ever new

and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

This musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music. The first line has two measures, the second and third lines each have two measures, and the fourth line has one measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

This musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music. The first line has three measures, the second and third lines each have four measures, and the fourth line has three measures. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The melody is more complex than the first piece, featuring some eighth and sixteenth notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Share in the feast of salvation.

COMMUNION

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.

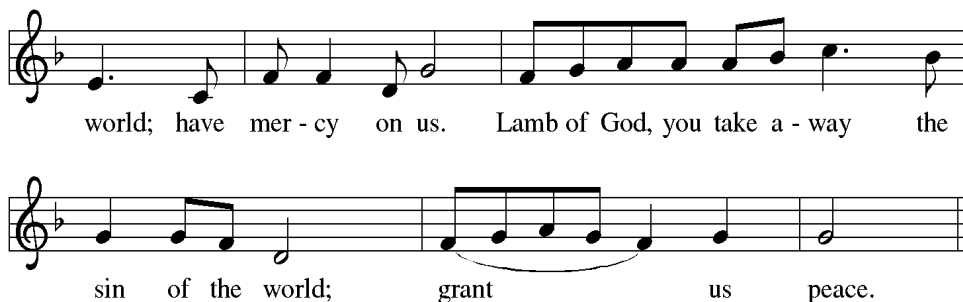
LAMB OF GOD



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



DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

“All Earth Is Hopeful” (ELW 266)

“Love Has Come” (ELW 292)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands to receive the blessing.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

PARISH SHARING TIME

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly’s participation in
God’s mission in the world.*

SENDING HYMN: “*Joy to the World*” (ELW 267)

The assembly stands.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Gospel Message

There are still places where teenage girls and women are tortured or murdered for actual or suspected infidelity, which is seen as an insult to family honor. Likewise, Mary’s pregnancy posed danger to her and shame to Joseph. As a righteous man faithful to God’s law, Joseph “planned to dismiss her quietly” (Matt. 1:19). It was the lenient alternative to stoning.

But then Joseph, like his namesake ancestor, had a dream. An angel’s words opened up righteousness to an unthinkable wide and loving sweep: “Do not be afraid” (Matt. 1:20). Welcome Mary home as your wife. The child is to be called Jesus (“The Lord saves”). Emmanuel, God-with-us. And he will save his people from their sins. Righteousness combined with unexpected action: at the beginning, as Jesus was being knit together in Mary’s womb, Joseph embraced both mother and child as family.

How much sin and violence comes from trying to avoid shame? Shame walls us off and tells us we don’t belong. Even if we don’t face honor killing, we know what it is to feel alone, despised, helpless. Jesus saves by coming to be with us not where we wish we were, but exactly where we don’t want to be. We are no longer alone but loved. Shame’s power is destroyed.

Jesus persistently gathered to himself the shunned and condemned, endangered and afraid. Crucified outside city walls, he was one with them from the beginning to the end. He took their part—our part—by the very way he was conceived and born.

Righteousness that is cherished yet open to dreams and messengers from God may look like it is overturned when it is really being fulfilled. Saved in the womb by a mother and earthly father who accepted God’s unlikely call to a different kind of righteousness, Jesus’ own living out of this righteousness eventually sent him to the cross, where death itself was destroyed.

Trinity This Week

Sunday, Dec. 18

9:00AM

Worship Service

10:15AM

Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School

4:00PM

Girl Scouts Meeting

Monday, Dec. 19

5:45PM

4H Club Meeting

Monday, Dec. 19 - 30

Church Office Closed—Secretary James on Vacation

Wednesday, Dec. 21

All Activities Cancelled In Celebration of Christmas

BIRTHDAYS! Gladys Maurer (12/19), Ainsley Marshall (12/21), Ian Meyer (12/21), Marlena Meyer (12/21), Cindy Barrett (12/23), and Taitem Zenor (12/23).

PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR SHUT-INS Our shut-in members would love to hear from you, so please feel free to send them a letter or stop in for a visit. They are: Ed Dolan, Joan Dana, Bob Thymian, Jane Kidwell, Addie Hopper, and Daniel Travsky.

OUR SECRETARY WILL BE ON VACATION Secretary James would like everyone to know that he will be on vacation this holiday season. He will be leaving for Ohio to join his family for Christmas on December 19th and will be returning to the office on January 3rd. Also, the January Newsletter will be released on January 5th due to James' vacation.

YOUTH GROUP STARTING Becky Dill and Laura Buckner are starting a Youth Group here at Trinity. If you are interested in participating or helping out, please let Becky or Laura know.

WEE! COMES TO A CLOSE WEE! Wednesday nights' season ended on December 14th. The program was a great success and huge thanks goes out to Judy Moline, Becky Dill, and everyone who helped and attended. Once a pastor has been chosen for Trinity, WEE! may make a come back, so be on the look out in the near future!

MANY THANKS! Secretary James would like to sincerely thank our Girl Scout Troop 1516 for the awesome Christmas goodies basket, Janet Talbott for the amazing peppermint cookies, Rozi Sorenson for the great cupcakes, and Diane Fiedler for the yummy Christmas Applesauce Nut Bread. The way to James' heart is definitely through his stomach! Trinity is truly a place of great kindness and friendship, and Secretary James thanks all Trinity members for their smiling faces and warmth this entire past year. James wishes everyone at Trinity a wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Texts for Next Week:

First Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm—Psalm 98

Second Reading—Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel Reading—John 1:1-14

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM TRINITY
LUTHERAN!**

We invite you to join us this holiday season as we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, December 24th, 5:00PM
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols with Communion

Saturday, December 24th, 9:00PM
Christmas Eve Worship Service

Sunday, December 25th, 9:00AM
Christmas Day Celebration Service

Offering Envelopes Available

2017 Offering envelopes are now available on the table in the North Lobby of the Church! If you did not use envelopes in 2016 or you gave online, envelopes were not provided to you; however, if you need some, just let Parish Secretary James know and he will get you some right away! We thank all of you for your kindness, generosity, and for being a member in the Trinity family!

2017 Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 29th, 2017, right after 9:00am worship service. Breakfast will be provided, and we have a lot of great things to cover, like Constitutional Revisions, the 2017 Budget, and determining what Trinity's core values are! We can't do this without you, so please plan on joining us if at all possible!

Thank You from Don!

Thank you for your prayers and support for Rachel and me as we make our way through Rachel's illness to new health. Special thanks to those who have provided meals for us during these last weeks. These have been a great help. We see Christ in your kindness.

Blessings to all as Advent comes to an end and the season of Christmas begins. May love, joy, peace, and good health be yours in the New Year.

In Christ's Love,
Don Holmstrom

Serving the Church

THIS WEEK—December 18, 2016

Preacher: Ms. Andrea Toven
Lector: 9:00AM Maia Anderson
Acolyte: 9:00AM Carl Buckner
Ushers: 9:00AM Jason & Trey Sherwood
Greeters: 9:00AM The Anderson Family
Nursery: 9:00AM Kate Jablin

NEXT WEEK—December 25, 2016

Preacher: Ms. Andrea Toven
Lector: 9:00AM Shane Toven
Acolyte: 9:00AM OPEN
Ushers: 9:00AM OPEN
Greeters: 9:00AM OPEN
Nursery: 9:00AM OPEN

Stewards: Judy Moline & Diahann Jablin

Altar Guild: Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

Coffee Fellowship: OPEN

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Rachel Larson
Parish Secretary James Greening
Congregation President..... Stephen Boss
Organist..... Meng Xu
Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett
Financial Secretary..... Bev Gossett
Treasurer..... Susan Manown



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There is a place for you here.

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