


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.

Paul, 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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18–25

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Keith Prekker

SERMON: “Interruptions”

Pastor Keith Prekker

HYMN: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#295

*APOSTLE’S 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.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, we know that all we have received is from your hand. Gracious and Loving Father, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "Create in Me . . ."

The musical score is written for a congregational setting, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask 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.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

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

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹come to help us.

³Restore ¹us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

⁴O LORD ¹God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the ¹bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision ¹of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O ¹God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at ¹your right hand,
the one you have made so strong ¹for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD ¹God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.

Glory be to the Father and ¹to the Son:
and to the ¹Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and e- ¹ver shall be:
world without end. ¹Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY: (In unison)

Let us pray.
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.

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!



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

**A brief silence.*

Continually restore and give life to the people of your covenant established in Christ. Use our presence in the world to reveal your salvation for all people. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Reveal your light to those who dwell in darkness during this season. Awaken all creation to the hope of new life through your promised coming. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Secure your grace and your peace among the nations. Lead us in ways of unity and justice to work with one another for the sake of all people. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Deliver the hope of Emmanuel, God with us, to all who suffer loneliness and despair. Send your Spirit to accompany those who long for your healing. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Prepare a way of safety and security for children to grow up free from fear or threat. Establish prosperity in every land, that no child may go hungry. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

**Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks that you welcome the saints into your eternal dwelling place. Train us to look forward to the day when you come to dwell among all your people for all time. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

*BLESSING

PARISH SHARING TIME

*HYMN: “The King Shall Come” #260

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME

*POSTLUDE

As we await the day of our Lord, let us confess our sin.
(Silence for reflection)

Great and Holy One,
in this time of waning daylight,
we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.
We build ourselves up at the expense of others.
We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure.
Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay.
Come to restore us in your image,
remake us into your people,
and rebuild what sin has broken,
that we may and the whole creation may rejoice.
Amen.

Fear not, people of God:
the Almighty has done great things for us.
God casts away our sin from us
and makes of us a new creation.
In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free.
Take heart in the tender compassion of our God
Amen.


*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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 820720
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net



God's Work . . .
... Our Hands

Interim Pastor **Keith Prekker**
Congregation President **Roland Kidwell**
Office Secretary **Colleen Miner**
Organist / Pianist **Xu Meng**
..... **Dan Groathouse**
Choir Director **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, December 22, 2013 – 4th Sunday of Advent

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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

*HYMN: “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our life, our mercy, our might.
Amen.

The Name of Jesus

Mary's son is to have the most powerful name in history. By this name demons will be cast out; sinners will be saved; the blind will receive their sight; hearing will be restored; once useless legs will walk again. By this name, the poor will receive the word that their suffering has been overturned, and by this name, those who grieve will receive the hope of resurrection and life. By this name, light will come to the world; salt will come to the earth; a whole new age will be ushered in.

But for now, the name is quiet. For now, Joseph and Mary are the only ones who know it. The name that will bring salvation to all comes into the world as any other child, without special fanfare, without brass bands, pomp, or circumstance. The name comes only by a promise: "She will bear a son" (1:21). The birth will be ordinary, not spectacular. Joseph is not even given any word that angels will dance and sing at the child's birth, that shepherds will leave their flocks to find him, that kings from faraway lands will kneel before him. He is simply to be born as any other child and, in the midst of that ordinary birth, given this extraordinary name: Jesus.

Jesus, who will live knowing the suffering and joy of life as truly as any other human being, is the Lord who will save "his people" (1:21). Jesus, who will die alongside common thieves, is the Lord who will destroy our alienation from God. We can call upon his name knowing that he has felt all we have felt, lived all we have lived, and died as we will die. We can call upon his name in the promise that he who comes quietly saves in the very ordinariness of his coming. With us truly, he has conquered our sorrow.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, December 26, 2013 - Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

Friday, December 27 - John, Apostle and Evangelist

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

Saturday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

*He will
save
his people
from their sins*





Happy New Year

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All confirmed members of Trinity are asked to be in attendance at this important meeting. The Annual Reports will be mailed to each household by Friday, January 10th. Extra copies will be available at the meeting

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Carolyn Hazlett, (Dec. 29); Linda Anderson, (Dec. 31); Barbara Rhodine, (Jan. 1); Tommy Nachtigal, (Jan. 3); Mary Johnson, (Jan. 4) and Phyllis Ricklefs, (Jan.4). Happy Birthday!

COMMITTEE REPORTS for the Annual Report are due in no later than **8:00 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, December 30.** The Annual Report must be mailed by Friday, January 10 and there is a lot of prep work involved with getting it compiled and ready to mail. Your cooperation is truly appreciated.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be **closed** this Wednesday. Be safe and a very happy New Year.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available on a table in the north lobby area. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience.

FLOWER CHART 2014: The 2014 Flower Chart will be up in the Gruver Room very soon if you would like to sign up for flowers during the 2014 year.

A COFFEE PERSON is needed for setting up and getting the coffee started for our Fellowship Time on Sundays. We are suggesting that you sign up for a month at a time. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gruver Room. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Cheryl Wilson @ 760-8731. Individuals and families are still asked to provide goodies on Sundays and this sign-up sheet is still posted on the pole in the Gruver Room.

FROM CAMPUS MINISTRIES LIAISON: Thank you to the congregation for their support of the campus ministry program. We have had immediate, generous response from people in signing up for food and meeting with the college students on Wednesdays during the first semester. There is a new sign-up sheet for food for the second semester on the pole in the Gruver Room. To schedule a visit with the campus group, please contact Terri Rittenburg at 343-2540 or tritt@uwyo.edu.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 2nd Sunday of Christmas: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1-18.

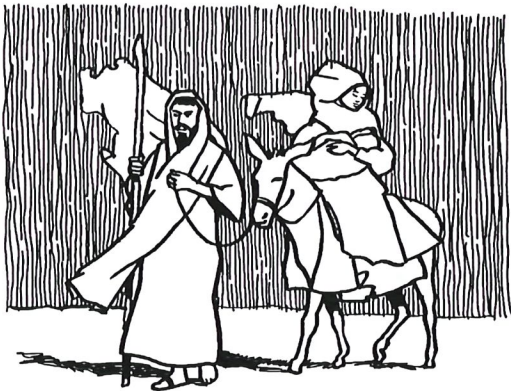
Trinity Lutheran Church & Evens

Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (12/29)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (1/5)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Wayne Sutherland	8:00 a.m. Andrea Toven
	10:30 a.m. Carolyn Hazlett	10:30 a.m. Trey Sherwood
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Kelcey Anderson	8:00 a.m. Albert Steiner
	10:30 a.m. Albert Steiner	10:30 a.m. Lindsay Meyer
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. Debbe Conyers Lindsay Conyers	8:00 a.m. David & Mary Brinkman
	10:30 a.m. Jason & Jolene Roesler	10:30 a.m. Toni Passow Bob Campbell
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Al & Bobbie Schimek	8:00 a.m. Debbe, Lindsay, & Lily Conyers
	10:30 a.m. Shirley Heggie Hanna Heggie	10:30 a.m. Ed & Lois Hiller
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<i>Stewards:</i>	L. Conyers & R. Kidwell	
	<i>Altar Guild:</i> Klaus & Jan Hanson	

Coffee Fellowship: The Andersons

	<u>This Week at Trinity</u>
Sunday, Dec. 29	8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday, Jan. 1	Office Closed
Saturday, Jan. 4	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ McDonald's



Joseph...took the child
and his mother...to Egypt
MATTHEW 2:14

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service, just off the south lobby, for children ages five and younger. Please join us for coffee in the south lobby area after the service today.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

RIDE MINISTRY: Since there are now several people at church who need rides to worship, we have established a Ride Ministry. If you are interested in helping out with rides, please talk with Lois Hiller, 742-6455, or call the church office @ 745-4222.

⁶who made them stand fast forev-¹er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ing God's will;

⁹mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;

¹²young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together.

¹³Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
¹ Hallelujah!

Glory be to the Father and¹ to the Son:
and to the¹ Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and e-¹ver shall be:
world without end.¹ Amen.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10–18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

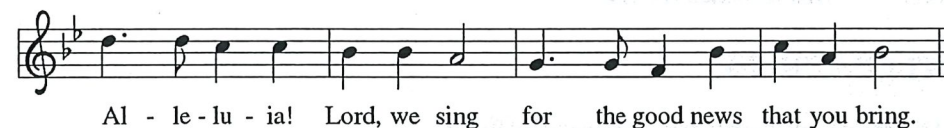
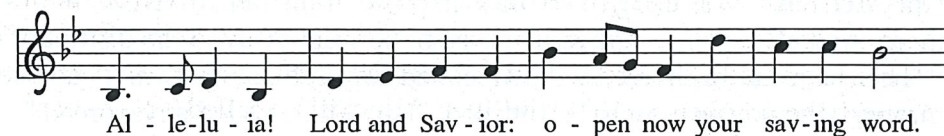
And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13–23

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to

Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "And Wonders of His Love"

Andrea Toven

HYMN: "Joy to the World"

#267

*APOSTLE’S 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,

*PRAYER OF THE DAY: (In unison)

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers.
As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm
and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7–9

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel.
God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words
join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not
act falsely.*

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

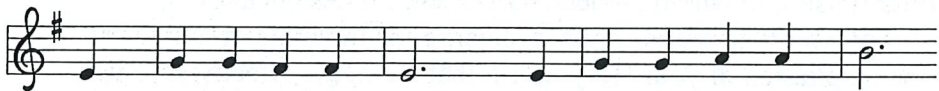
⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior

⁹in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

PSALM: Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹from the heavens;
praise God ¹in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, ¹all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹hosts of heaven.
³Praise the LORD, ¹sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹shining stars.
⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹bove the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹were created,

*KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*HYMN OF PRAISE



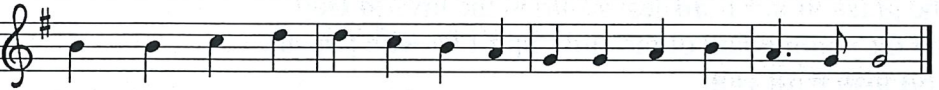
- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

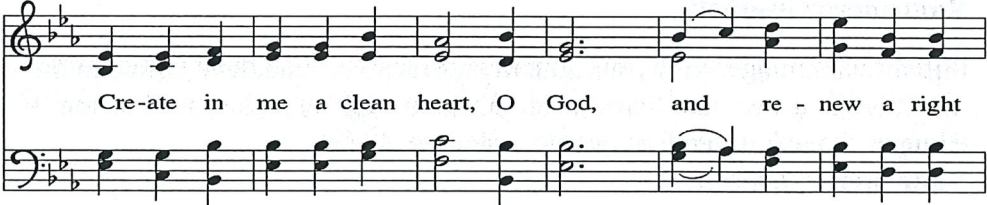
*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, we know that all we have received is from your hand. Gracious and Loving Father, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

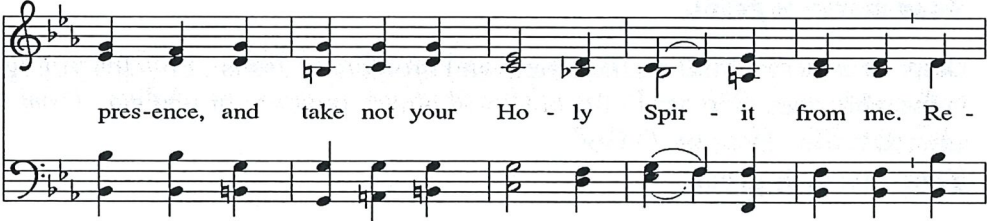
*CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "Create in Me ..."



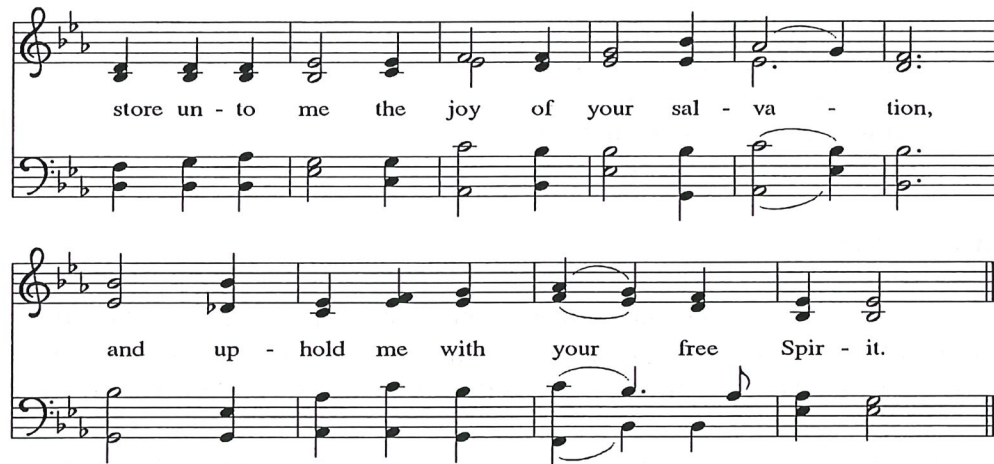
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

**A brief silence.*

Shine your favor on your people, and uphold us with the abundance of your steadfast love. Send us out from our assembly, trusting in your presence, to announce your gracious deeds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill all who hunger with your gracious provision. Establish justice in the ways that food is grown and distributed. Work through agencies, such as the World Hunger Appeal, to feed all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Make your ways known to all the nations. Join all people together, young and old, rich and poor, in order to work your righteous acts among them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ease the suffering of all who live with chronic illness, addiction, or distress. Surround them with family and friends who bring assurance of your compassion and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to all children, the sisters and brothers of Jesus. Free the young and vulnerable ones who are in the chains of abuse, poverty, or neglect. Give them abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.
(Silence for reflection)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

*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.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 820720
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net



God's Work . . .
... Our Hands

Interim Pastor **Keith Prekker**
Congregation President **Roland Kidwell**
Office Secretary **Colleen Miner**
Organist/Pianist **Xu Meng**
..... **Dan Groathouse**
Choir Director **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, December 29, 2013 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*HYMN: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #288

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Remembering your covenant that draws the saints into one community, join our voices with theirs in praise of all the good things you do for your people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

*BLESSING

PARISH SHARING TIME

*HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” #290

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME

*POSTLUDE

The Baby in the Bread

Two very old legends are told about how the baby Jesus escaped the pursuing soldiers Herod sent to kill him. In one, Mary, Joseph, and the baby take refuge in the home of a baker woman who hides the baby in her big bowl under some folds of dough. The soldiers break into her home, but they do not find the baby hidden in the bread bowl. After the soldiers have left and the family has slipped away, the baker discovers that the dough has risen to many times its original size, and she now has bread enough to feed the village. In another legend, the family has made it to Egypt but is still being pursued by Herod's troops. Joseph advises a farmer to plant some wheat in his field after they pass through it, and the wheat grows miraculously fast so that it is ripe for harvest by the time the soldiers show up. The farmer tells them truthfully that the refugee family did pass through, but they did so before he sowed this field. The soldiers, seeing that the wheat has grown to harvest, believe the family must have passed though months earlier and give up and turn back.

In both of these legends, Herod's soldiers miss seeing Jesus because he is hidden behind wheat, under dough—hidden in bread. They are looking for a baby king who will wield power like Herod's power, a king who will command soldiers of his own and who will rule by fear and threat. They are not looking for one who will feed the hungry poor and who will himself become bread for the world. Today we get to find that king they failed to find, hidden in the bread. When we see him there, in the bread we share, we also find that the dough has risen miraculously, the wheat has grown miraculously, and there is enough to share with a hungry world.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, January 1, 2014 - Name of Jesus

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Thursday, January 2

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor, Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center, from which would flow evangelism and social ministry. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.

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I will
recount
the
gracious
deeds
of the
LORD