

THE LARAMIE CIVIC CHORUS welcomes all people to join us in an interdenominational Christmas Service to be held in the Fine Arts Concert Hall – Friday, December 19th, 7:00pm. The service will include traditional and contemporary music, spoken word from many traditions, and singing of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus. All are welcome to attend in the congregation or sing in the Service Chorus. A rehearsal will be held Monday, December 15th, in the University of Wyoming Fine Arts Building, room 128. If you wish to sing, please RSVP by Friday, December 12th, by emailing the Civic Chorus director, Holly Dalrymple – hdalrymp@uwyo.edu.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Would you like to place a poinsettia in the Chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of someone? Please fill out the insert and return it to the church office by 8:00 a.m. **Thursday**, December 18.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Diane Fiedler, (Dec. 7); Mark Stayton, (Dec. 7); Kelly Kidwell, (Dec. 8) and Roger Rottman, (Dec. 9). Happy Birthday!

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will be meeting this Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Gruver Room.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Lutheran University Ministries will be Caroling for Cans! This includes a collection at Trinity as well as an adventure to caroling in the Laramie Community **this Wednesday**, December 10th @ **5 p.m.** Cans will be donated to Interfaith following our caroling event. If you would like to join us, please contact Adam Huck at ahuck@uwyo.edu or 720-324-0520.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held **next Sunday**, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. Rehearsals are held during Sunday School times, so attendance is very important! Please provide Jennifer Lyford with contact information for your child or call her (760-1411) with any questions you may have.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Join us for worship as we celebrate the *Nativity of our Lord Jesus* on Wednesday, December 24th.

5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

9:00 p.m. Holy Communion Candlelight Service

COMMITTEE REPORTS for the Annual Report are due in to the church office by Monday, December 29. The preparation for the Annual Report is a hectic time; your prompt response is appreciated. Sending them via e-mail seems to be the most efficient way for all concerned.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There will be openings on Church Council for next year. Please consider running for Council for 2015. Let a current Council member know if you’re interested or have questions about what this commitment entails. It’s a wonderful way to share your time and talents.

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

During the Advent season we watch & wait for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Christ came to us as a baby in Bethlehem. Christ comes among us now in the Word and Sacraments. And Christ will come again at the end of the ages. Our response to Christ’s love and forgiveness is joyful service to our neighbors, those who are next door and those around the world. Grateful for the faithful who have gone before us, Trinity congregation celebrates new opportunities for ministry. We pray for an awareness of God’s “new thing” springing forth among us. May God inspire us to respond openly and generously.

Please place your “Plan for Giving” form in the consecration box near the baptismal font in the center aisle. Your time and talent offerings will be tabulated and shared with congregational leaders. They will invite you to offer your gifts to God’s ministry at Trinity. Note: Your financial commitments will be kept confidential. Have you misplaced your “plan for giving” form? See Andrea Toven or Pastor Rachel to obtain another.

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 3rd Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (12/7)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (12/14)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Steve Boss	8:00 a.m. Bobbie Schimek
	10:30 a.m. Debbe Conyers	10:30 a.m. Roland Kidwell
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Madie Jablin	8:00 a.m. Mary Grace Buckner
	10:30 a.m. Marlena Meyer	10:30 a.m. Derk Lyford
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. The Jablin Family	8:00 a.m. Les & Karen Ommen
	10:30 a.m. Jason & Trey Sherwood	10:30 a.m. Ed & Lois Hiller
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt Jennie Lawrence	8:00 a.m. Janet Talbott Tracy Bennett
	10:30 a.m. George & Jennifer Zenor	10:30 a.m. Shirley Heggie Hanna Heggie
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson
	10:30 a.m. Rosalind Kidwell	10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell

Stewards: T. Rittenburg *Altar Guild:* Klaus & Jan Hanson

Coffee Fellowship: The Nachtigals

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, December 7	8:00 a.m.	Worship (HC)
	9:15 a.m.	SS / Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (HC)
Tuesday, December 9	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Weds., December 10	10:00 a.m.	Women's Study @ Janet Talbott's
	5:00 p.m.	Weds. Get-Away – Caroling for Cans
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 11	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	F ³

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: Feel free to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. Recycle the rest at the ends of the back pew. Thanks.

PEOPLE...WENT OUT TO HIM IN GREAT NUMBERS MK. 1:5



CHRIST IS PRESENT WITH US as we worship today. We are grateful that you are among us. If you are looking for a church home, please speak with Pastor Rachel and indicate your interest on the pew pad.

Welcome University Students! We gather Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at Trinity. There's a free supper, great conversation and informal worship.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to approach the communion rail, please let one of the ushers know and we will come to you. White grape juice is available in the center of each tray or in the glass chalice.

A nursery is provided during worship just off the South Lobby area, for children ages 5 and younger.

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 sign, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by Barb Rhodine in loving memory of my husband Dr. "Norm" Rhodine.

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

HYMN: "All Earth is Hopeful"

#266

***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

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

For the church, that it be a herald of glad tidings, announcing the good news that you are drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who strive for peace and an end to conflict and warfare, that righteousness find a home in their midst. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For wilderness and desert terrains, for mountains and plains, for fields fallow in winter, and for fruitful vegetation during these summer days in the Southern Hemisphere. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who are weighed down with economic instability, sorrow, anxiety, or sickness, that you speak tenderly to them and comfort them in your compassionate embrace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, that in our busy and fast-paced lives you will grant us the gift of patience and trust in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all your holy ones who faithfully prepared the way of the Lord. Open our eyes to the new heavens and new earth made known in your advent among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.


Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

*CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY



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-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM: Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

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

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

***PRAYER**

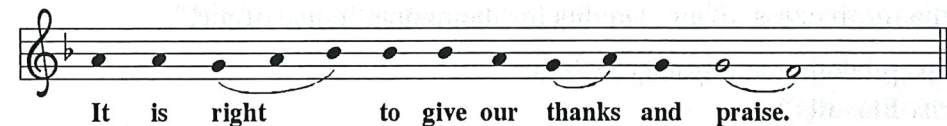
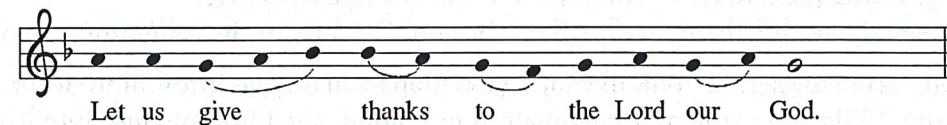
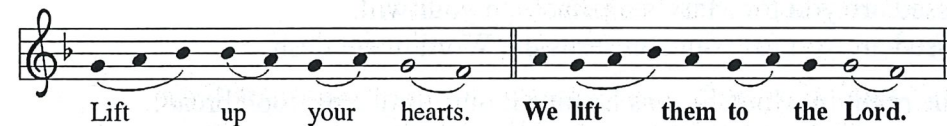
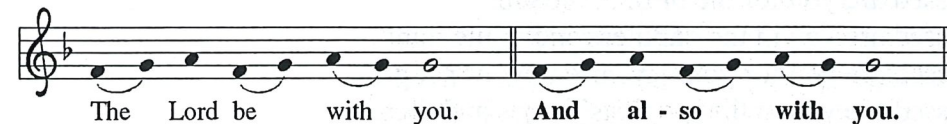
Let us pray.

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

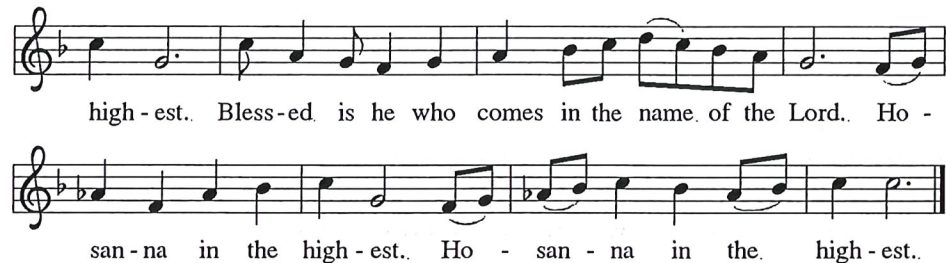
***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



***PROPER PREFACE**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**





high - est. Bless - ed. is he who comes in the name. of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the. high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your son Jesus the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the most high, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY: (In unison)

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: (10:30 a.m.) "The Huron Carol" arr. James Kirby **Chancel Choir**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

***KYRIE**

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

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

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

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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**

Come to Christ,
Who comes to us in this holy supper.

***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.

***BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***POST COMMUNION HYMN: “Christ is Our Guiding Light”**

Text: Christ is our guiding light:
Come, let us walk in the way of peace.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord God, we give you thanks
that you have fed us even now
with the banquet that is yet to come.
Keep us alert for signs of your presence
in the world around us.
Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort
to those in need,
and make us bold in testifying to the light
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

God most high,
God with us,
God poured out on us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

PARISH SHARING TIME

***HYMN: “Hark, the Glad Sound”**

#239

***SENDING**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who shapes the whole creation,
who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
we confess that we have been unfaithful to you.
Like dry leaves and withered grass,
our lives are blown about by our sins
and the powers of evil around us.
Restore us, O God;
let the light of your face shine on us,
and we shall be saved. Amen.

God is patient, not wanting any to perish,
but all to come to repentance.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
I bring you this good news:
You are free from all that imprisons you;
your sins are forgiven;
God heals your broken hearts.
Live in peace and harmony
as you wait for the day of God.
Amen.

***HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway”**

#264

***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

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

Pastor..... Rachel S. Larson
Congregation President.....Terri Rittenburg
Office Secretary..... Colleen Miner
Organist/Pianist..... Meng Xu
Choir Director.....Larry Hazlett

Sunday, December 7, 2014 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

*Stand as you are able

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Today's Anthem: **The Huron Carol** arr. James Kirby

Text: 'Twas in the moon of winter-time when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

O children of the forest free, the angel song is true,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 7, 2014 - Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died around 397

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

Saturday, December 13 - Lucy, martyr, died 304

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

Sunday, December 14 - John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

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*Prepare
the way
of the*
LORD