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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held *this morning* at the 10:30 a.m.
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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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Do you wish to sing more of your favorite Christmas carols? There will be a group caroling around town. We will be meeting at the church at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 17. Following the caroling we will return to church for hot chocolate and cookies. Put on your favorite Christmas sweater and join in.

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.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: David Reif, (Dec. 14); Jamie Rhodine, (Dec. 14); Keith Ensley, (Dec. 16); Lynn Loehr, (Dec. 17); Rebecca Lyford, (Dec. 17) and Gladys Maurer, (Dec. 19). Happy Birthday!

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the January Newsletter are due by 8:00 December 19th.

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: 4th Sunday of Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Like 1:26-38.

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Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (12/14)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (12/21)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Bobbie Schimek 10:30 a.m. Roland Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Bob Middleton 10:30 a.m. Gladys Crane
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mary Grace Buckner 10:30 a.m. Derk Lyford	8:00 a.m. Kelcey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Makayla Renneisen
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. Les & Karen Ommen 10:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m. Debbe Conyers Lindsay Conyers 10:30 a.m. Barb Rouse Georgia Mitchell
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Janet Talbott Tracy Bennett 10:30 a.m. Shirley Heggie Hanna Heggie	8:00 a.m. The Anderson Family 10:30 a.m. Ed & Lois Hiller
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter 10:30 a.m. Rosalind Kidwell

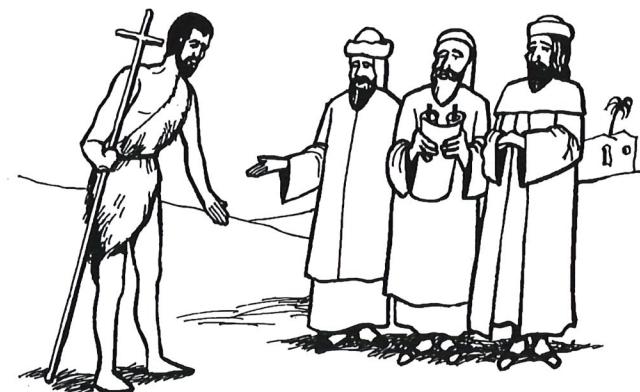
Stewards: T. Rittenburg *Altar Guild:* Klaus & Jan Hanson

Coffee Fellowship: Kris Oolman

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, December 14	8:00 a.m.	Worship (HC)
	9:15 a.m.	SS / Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – Sunday school Program
	5:30 p.m.	SHY Movie Night
Tuesday, December 16	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Weds., December 17	10:00 a.m.	Women's Study
	6:00 p.m.	Weds. Get-Away
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling

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.



Who are you? JN.1:19

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

HYMN: "O God of Light"

#507

*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.

That the people of God prepare the way of the Lord by bearing witness to the light and giving thanks in all circumstances. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

That governments, political leaders, and social service agencies will work together to free all those held captive by poverty, oppression, and disease. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

That from the garden of this earth praise and righteousness will spring forth, and fruitful harvests will provide bread to feed all who are hungry. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

That you teach us to pray without ceasing as we commend into your care all who are brokenhearted, lonely, grieving, or ill. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

That you strengthen the hands of all who serve in this congregation as teachers, musicians, worship leaders, and volunteers. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

That you clothe us with the garments of salvation, until with all your saints we behold the fullness of your glory. Let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

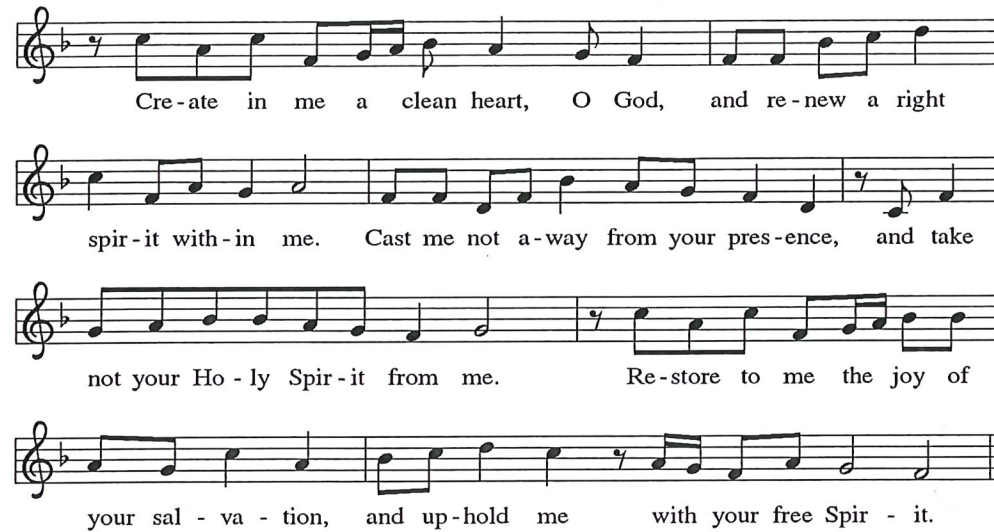
Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*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.

***PRAYER**

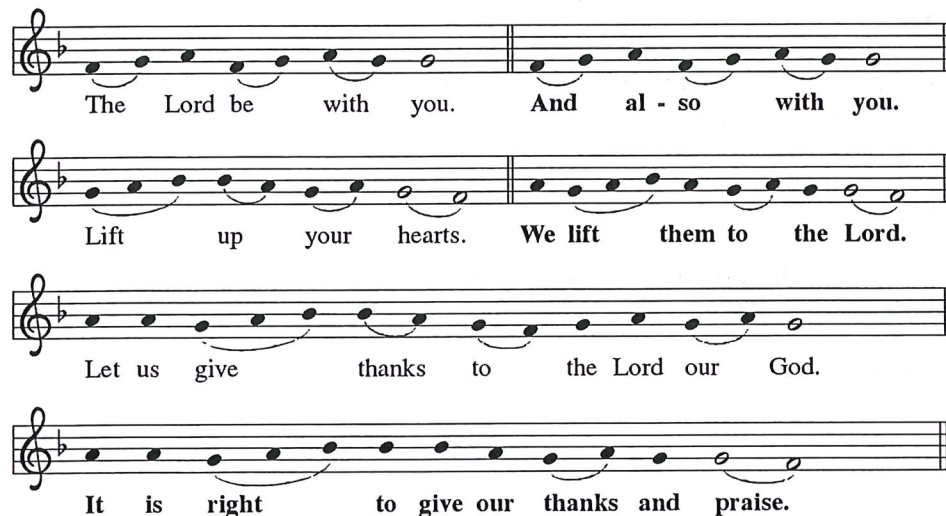
Let us pray.

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**



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.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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.

***GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

PSALM: Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the for-¹ tunes of Zion,
then were we like ¹ those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with ¹ shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great ¹ things for them."

³The LORD has done great ¹ things for us,
and we are ¹ glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for-¹ tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses ¹ of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who ¹ sowed with tears
will reap with ¹ songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry-¹ ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder-¹ ing their sheaves.**

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

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

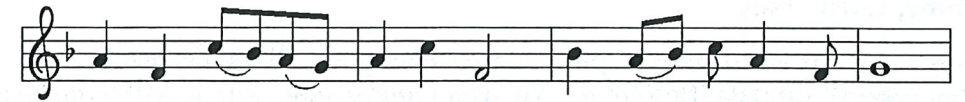
SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do
not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good;
²²abstain from every form of evil.

***PROPER PREFACE**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC 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.

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY: (In unison)

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: (8:00 a.m.) "The Huron Carol" arr. James Kirby **Chancel Choir**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

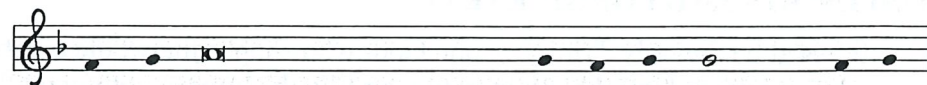
A reading from Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

***KYRIE**



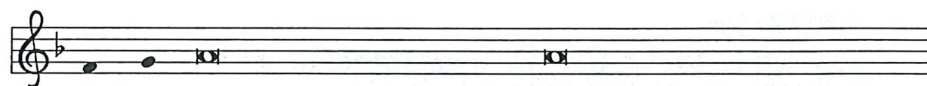
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



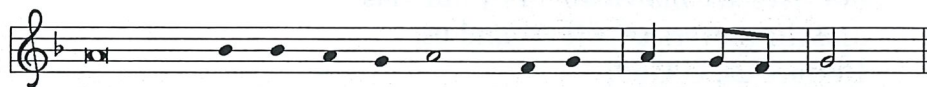
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



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



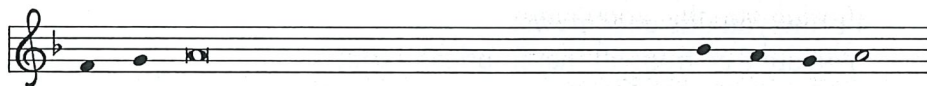
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.


***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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "As We Gather at Your Table"

#522

***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: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"**

#843

***SENDING**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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."

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: "Blessed Be the God of Israel"**

#250

***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 Web-site: telclaramie.com

E-mails: pastorrachel@qwestoffice.net telc@qwestoffice.net



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 14, 2014 – 2rd Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

*Stand as you are able

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 14, 2014

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.

Tuesday, December 16 - Las Posadas (LLC)

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Saturday, December 20

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

Rejoice
in the
LORD

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