



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Service of Word & Prayer

Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near. **Amen.**

ADVENT

266

All Earth Is Hopeful
Toda la tierra



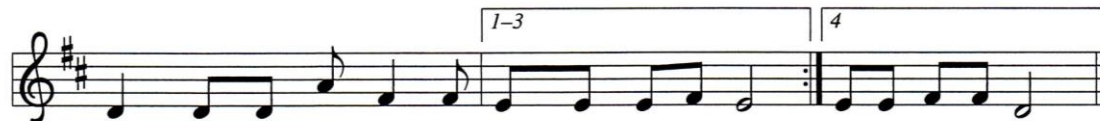
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications

TODA LA TIERRA
 11 11 12 12

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.

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,

And the was life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

And we have see his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Candle Lighting Litany - Love

P: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...

C: Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles...

P: One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love... *(Light the fourth candle in your Advent wreath.)*

C: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

P: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

C: And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us.

P: Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now — God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text and music: John Helgen © 2013 Augsburg Fortress.
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Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection, and song.



First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The holy gospel according to Luke,
Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Children's Message

Sermon

Pastor Jen Herrmann

Hymn of the Day: Oh Come O Come, Emmanuel

No. 257

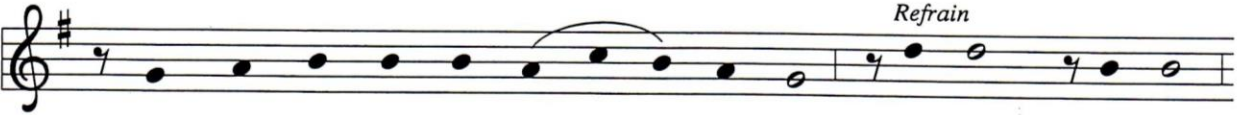
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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



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



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



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

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
Refrain
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new.
Refrain
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
Refrain

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent, as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 19: O Branch of Jesse (4)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 22: O King of nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (8)

Thanksgiving for the Word:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

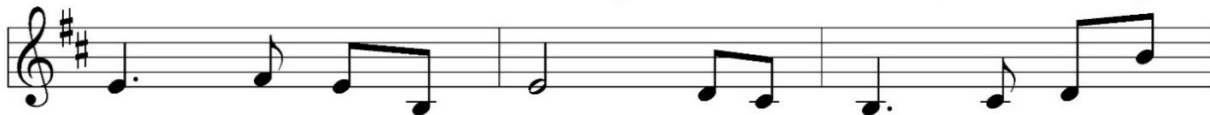
Offertory (Usher please bring the offering to the altar)

Offertory Song – All is Ready Now

No. 4



1 Qui - et - ly in - to the sta - ble where the
2 'Cross the thresh - old of cre - a - tion, Je - sus
3 Now en - throned as king of heav - en, blaz - ing



Sav - ior sleep - ing lies, we can go, for all are
comes to dwell with us, as he was in the be -
glo - ry like the sun: in his hands are pow'r and



wel - come: shep - herd, an - gel, poor, and
gin - ning, ev - er - more God's gift of
jus - tice, on his lips are peace and



wise. What we have we bring and of - fer, earth - ly
love. Now he calls us to the ta - ble, gift of
love. As our gifts are turned to ash - es, fall - ing



gifts for Child di - vine, giv - ing that which we were
love to bleed and die; man - ger here be - comes an
down in awe we bow, emp - ty - hand - ed, we a -



giv - en, fruits of har - vest, bread and wine.
al - tar, sta - ble Lamb is sac - ri - ficed.
dore him. "Come, for all is read - y now."

Text: Jay Beech
Music: ALL IS READY NOW, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

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Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he was 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 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.**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness
And bears the wounds of the world.
Therefore, let us be bold as we pray,
Trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places
that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with
those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of
your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your
mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a
renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks,
or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have
made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and
fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities
a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ,
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

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

No. 267

Joy to the World

267

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

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

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dismissal.

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

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AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	Guy Miller
Communion Assistant:	Guy Miller
Usher:	Fred Wobser & Kent Miller
Acolyte:	Zane Warner

At 10:30...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	Cathy Wobser
Communion Assistant:	Cathy Wobser
Usher:	Bob Troike & Denny Sessler
Acolyte:	Malachi Herrmann

December Altar Care:	Ann Strean & Sally Warner
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PRAYER CONCERNS

To all affected by the war in Israel and Ukraine; for all directly or indirectly effected by tornadoes, and flooding, mass shootings happening nationwide; FAITH members, including, Laura Allen, the people of St. John Union Corners and their pastor Stacy Lauer-Scovanner; all who work to provide health care to the people of the greater Sandusky area.

Pastor Jen can be contacted at 419-822-7630 or jen.herrmann@gmail.com

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Mark Wiedenheft's birthday on December 21 from Carrie, Tyler, Carlie, & Ryan.

THE MEMORIAL FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Greg Norman and Cindy Norman in memory of their father, Les Norman, who entered his rest in Christ seventeen years ago on January 2, 2008.

DONATIONS TO OUR “PENNY JUG” support the global relief and habilitation efforts of ELCA World Hunger, a mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

THIS MORNING’S LOOSE CASH OFFERING (money not in an envelope or given without other designation) benefits Current Expenses Fund. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.

ATTENDANCE

December 15: 60 + 37 = 97

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS

December 15

General Fund – \$3,118.75

Building Improvements – \$245.00

This Week at Trinity

TODAY	Service of Word & Prayer Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am
TUESDAY	Christmas Eve Service	4:00 pm & 10:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	“We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	7:00 pm
SATURDAY	“We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Service of Word & Prayer Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am



AGAIN, THIS YEAR WE ARE ASKING FOR SEATS AND FEETS (underwear and socks) or gloves/mittens or scarves for Care and Share and Crossroads Homeless Shelter.

OUR ANNUAL THANKOFFERING BOXES are being replaced with ThankOffering Envelopes. Sorry, but our donation counters are asking for no change this year. Please pick up an envelope and place your donation inside and return it any time between now and Christmas Eve. Your donations go towards the Community Mission Fund.



OUR ELCA GOOD GIFTS TREE is back again this year. This is our annual wider church mission support event and is now out for you to purchase items from.

This is how this works:

Pick an ornament from the tree which you would like to support.

Take it and an envelope with you, fill out the information needed on the envelope.

Place the money in the envelope.

Bring it back next week with you or mail it to the church office.

You get to keep the ornament or give it to the person you have honored or a family member of someone you have memorialized.

All memorials or honoraria will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



STARTING DECEMBER 22 AND 29 we will be collecting boxes of cereal to give to Grace's Table and Care & Share as part of the idea of the 3 Kings bringing gifts to baby Jesus and the Sunday school New Year celebration. Last year we collected 74 boxes, set them up in the hallway, and at the strike of "3" the boxes were knocked down in a domino effect. When the last box hit the "2024" sign, all the children

shouted "HAPPY NEW YEAR" and blew horns to celebrate. Hopefully this year we'll have just as much fun bringing in 2025! All cereal boxes can be placed on the table in the fellowship hall across from the church office.

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY the Sunday School children will be selling candle jars crafted from your donated Christmas accessories. The tealight candles are non-flammable and contain a timer. Stop out in the hallway and for a donation, pick up a gift or two. They make nice gifts for teachers, bus drivers, hair stylists, or postal employees.



A FREE COMMUNITY DINNER is January 8 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Castalia. The dinner includes turkey tetrazzini, coleslaw, roll, and dessert. Delivery is available for shut-ins. Call 419-357-3672 to schedule a delivery.