

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A family where Christ is Head and the entire congregation are ministers."

Rev. Jonathan Meraz ~ Pastor

Carroll Smith ~ Organist

Love



6001 Granby Street

Norfolk, VA 23505

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www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org



If you have a smart phone or tablet computer you can scan this code and the complete Order of Worship will appear on your screen.

WiFi Password – HelloFriend

Good Morning and a Special Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. Trinity is a liturgical Lutheran church using the Divine Service as written in the Lutheran Service Book. Today's Divine Service is printed for you in this bulletin. Today's service is being live streamed to YouTube and will be available later in the day on Trinity's Facebook page and Website. The receiving of communion will not be recorded to preserve the sanctity of the sacrament. During this time, the recording will be directed to the stained-glass window above the altar so communion hymns can still be shared. By entering the service, you consent to the video recording to be used for live streaming, inclusion on our web site and Facebook, and/or any other purpose by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We hope that your experience here is meaningful and will be lasting.

All members and guests are asked to fill out the Welcome Book found in your pew.

PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR – Flo and Richard Ball, Talma Butcher, Brian Dugan, Janet Eddy, Helen Everett, Pat Gregory, Terry Ingmire, Paul Lass, Julie and Sam Locklear, Nicholas Mick, Patrick Mick, Brenda Pendry, Thelma Scroxtton, Scott and Natasha Thieman.

HOLY COMMUNION – In the Sacrament of Holy Communion our Lord Jesus comes to us with **His very body and blood** to eat and to drink **for the forgiveness of sins** and **to strengthen our union with Him and with one another**. He invites to His table those who trust His words, **repent of all their sin** and forgive and love one another as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because **Holy Communion is a confession of the faith** which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to **speak with the Pastor before communing**.

For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff, 10:32ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; Acts 2:38, 42; 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:17-34

Other Christians and children who have not completed instruction may come forward, cross their arms over their chest and receive a blessing. For those who prefer it for any reason, the cups in **the center of the tray contain a grape juice option**. Please let the pastor know if you need a **Gluten Free wafer**.

(Before communing, we ask that first time guests and visitors please speak with the Pastor.)

Today's Worship Participants

Lector

Communion Assistant

Cathy George

Roger Medlin

Participants for Next Sunday

Lector

Julie Meraz

While Trinity still encourages members to wear masks inside the church (as 'recommended' by the CDC), Trinity will no longer require wearing masks. However, we do recommend those not comfortable without their masks to continue wearing them. We will still have masks available if someone wants one. Of note, Pastor and the Communion Assistant will wear their masks during Communion.

Divine Service Three

The congregation sits quietly. Please be aware that some people use the time prior to the service for reflection and meditation in the sanctuary. Please respect this time of silence.

Organ Prelude

Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul

Sigfrid Karg Elert, op.65

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *Stand and face the Processional Cross (rear of the Church)*

Processional Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354, sts. 1-3



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Each Sunday we light a new candle on the Advent wreath.

This week we light the fourth candle.

It reminds us of the love God has for us in sending his Son to die for us.

Advent Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354, st. 4

4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
 My mouth derides my enemies,
 because I rejoice in your salvation.
 There is none holy like the LORD;
 there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
 The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.
 The LORD kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
 The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low and he exalts.



- C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie



- C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

C Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

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

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

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



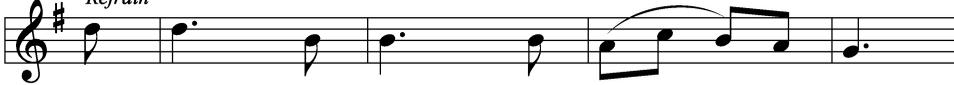
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou 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, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory



C 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Music for Meditation

Gabriel's Message

Paul Manz

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy...

Chear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



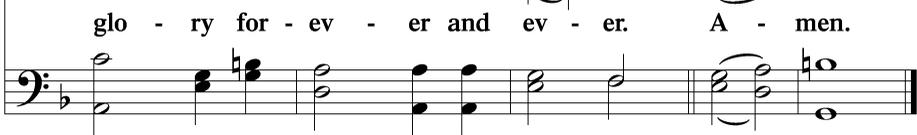
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

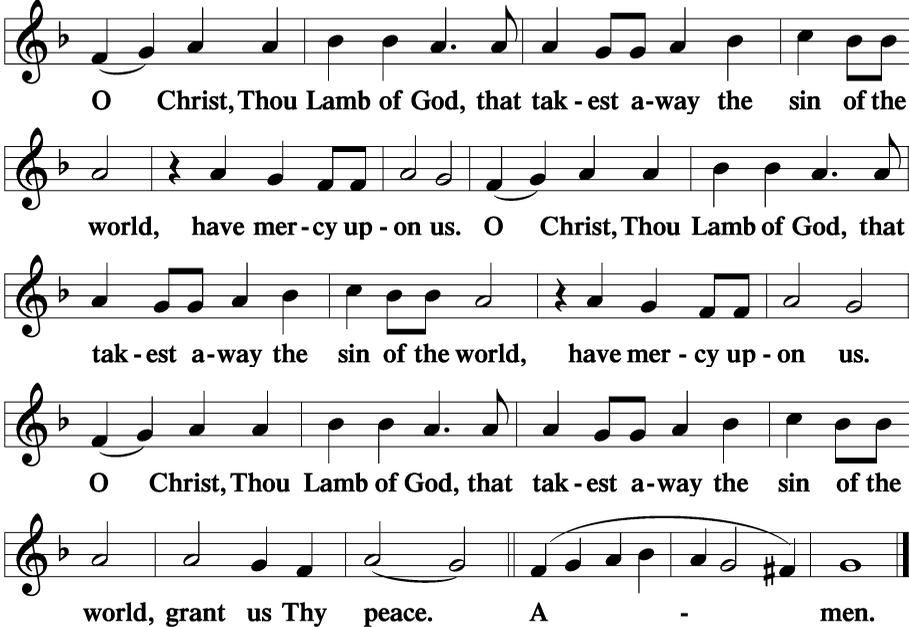
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

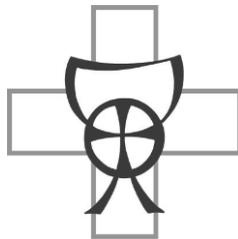
Sit

Distribution

The pastor distributes the body and blood of Christ to those who come to receive.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C** Amen.



Distribution Hymn

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

LSB 814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
 3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
 4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
 'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
 He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the suff'ers rest.
 The Lord hath judgments for the proud
 And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
 He made by Moses known,
 But sent the world His truth and grace
 By His belovèd Son.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 △ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

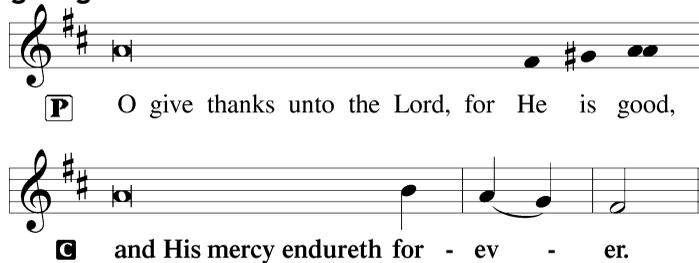
Stand

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

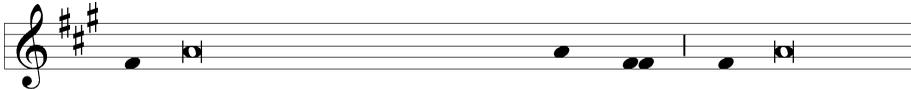


P Bless we the Lord.

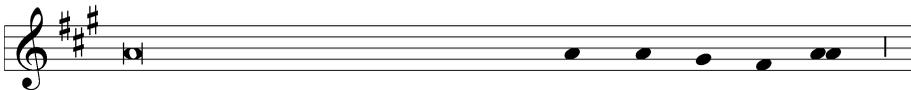


C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Recessional Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Following the service, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Organ Postlude

Veni, Emmanuel

Robert J. Powell

Praise God! We are excited to announce that Carroll Smith has agreed to become our new Director of Music. She has done a wonderful job filling in the last 3 months and we are certainly blessed to have her join our church staff. Please welcome Carroll and her husband Ted to our congregation.

New Pictorial Directory A new pictorial directory is available for pick up today in the Welcome Center. Please remember to keep the office updated of any changes to your email, home address or phone numbers.

The Poinsettia sign-up sheet is on the LWML Flower bulletin board in the hallway. Please indicate whether they are in honor or memory of someone and whether you want to take them home or gift to a shut-in. Poinsettias will be \$10.00 this year and must be paid for in advance. Order deadline is TODAY, December 19th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Please make checks payable to LWML and drop them in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office. Please make the notation of "POINSETTIA" in the memo line.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January - March are now available. You may pick one up from the front table in the transept as you exit this morning.

2022 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up in the Welcome Center this morning. Please check your box for your name. Numbers have been reassigned as necessary. If you are currently giving through *Simply Giving* and would still like envelopes, please let Anne Combes know. If you do not have envelopes but would like some, please take a set from the unmarked boxes and write your name and envelope number on the sign-up sheet provided.

LWML NEWS - We will be holding our Women's Epiphany Luncheon on Saturday, January 8th at Freemason Abbey in Norfolk beginning at 12:00 Noon. Afterwards we will have an art tour at the Chrysler Museum given by our very own Judy Sykes! If you would like to attend, please contact Cathy George. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

Helen Everett will be turning 101 years old on January 6th. Her family has asked that we "shower" her with cards for her birthday. If you would like to send Helen a card, her address is -

Helen Everett
1049 Sir Timothy Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

When you sign your name, please be sure to include that you are a Trinity member so that she can place the name.

December 2021 Presentation

We often think of money as a good indicator of where our heart is. And it is. What we do with our possessions is, in fact, a fool-proof indicator of what is in our hearts. Our heart attitude actually determines what we do with our money.

The Lord Jesus put it this way: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In effect, He was saying, “Show me your MasterCard statements. Show me your tax return. Show me your checkbook. Tell me how you spend your money. And I will then tell you where your heart is.”

The reason our Lord could take this approach is because what we do with our money is an accurate statement to God of what we value most. We tend to spend money on the things which are most important to us.

For example, if our great passion in life is gun collecting, then we will tend to spend money on guns, on cases in which to display them, on certificates of authenticity, on alarm systems to safeguard them, on attending gun shows, etc. If making a “fashion statement” is very important to us, on a regular basis, we will tend to spend relatively large sums of money on our personal appearance.

But how we use our money is much more than an indicator of our interests. It is actually a determiner of where our heart is. As one author expressed it, “If I want my heart to be in one particular place and not in another, then I need to put my money in that place and not in the other. . . . Your heart will never be where your money isn’t.”

A person might pray, “Dear Lord, please give me a heart for the poor.” If you want to have a great heart for the poor, then give to the poor, and your heart will follow. Do you want to have a great heart for missions? Then give to missions, and your heart will follow. Do you want to have a great heart for the work and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church? Then give to the Trinity Lutheran Church ministry.

The Apostle Paul told the rich that they, through their generosity and good deeds, could store up treasure for themselves as a “good foundation for the future.” Thus, for rich and poor alike, the question becomes one of using God’s wisdom concerning our investments and our expenditures in the light of eternity. When faced with a choice of spending on ourselves or giving to the work of the Lord, the question to be asked is this: “Which is the better investment for eternity?” As we realize that where we spend our money will both indicate and determine where our heart is, perhaps a second question of equal importance is, “Where do I want my heart to be?”

A pastor in a relatively small church was once faced with a peculiar problem. It seems that a wealthy widow in the church had left \$3 million to be used as follows: Fifty percent was to be given to missions, and the remaining fifty percent was to be spent on the church. That pastor was very concerned that the sudden presence of such a significant sum of money might deter some people from giving and issued this proclamation: “I don’t want the money to be a bane and not a blessing to the church. People sometimes think because a church is endowed there’s no reason to give. Christian living then shrinks along with their giving.”

This morning, as you consider your offering to the Lord as viewed from the perspective of eternity, where is your heart? Is your giving keeping pace with your Christian living?

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 19 th	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
	Communion Worship Service	10:00 am
	Farewell/Retirement Dinner	Following Worship
	Cookies for Military due – to be placed in kitchen	
Monday, December 20 th	Bowling League	6:30 pm
Friday, December 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 26 th	First Sunday after Christmas	
	Lessons and Carols Worship Service	10:00 am

What we do with our money is both an indicator and a determiner of where our hearts are.

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Sunday, December 12, 2021
Worship Attendance - 69
General Offerings - \$2,279.00

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