

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Chaplain Matthew Prince ~ *Vacancy Pastor*

Carroll Smith ~ *Director of Music*



6001 Granby Street

Norfolk, VA 23505

757-489-2551

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! We welcome you today as a part of God’s family here at Trinity!
We hope that your experience here is meaningful and will be lasting.**

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

Visitors – We are so happy you are joining us for Worship today. If this is your first visit at Trinity, please take a moment to complete the Visitor Card found in front of you in the pew. Then place the card in the Offering Plate as it is passed during the service.

*Members, Returning Visitors and Active Guests –
We ask that you please fill out the Welcome Book found at the end of your pew.*

PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR – Flo and Richard Ball, Anna Carter, Helen Everett, Pastor Charles Froehlich, Pat Gregory, Holly Hartman, Terry Ingmire, Paul Lass, Julie and Sam Locklear, Bob Matthews, Rachel McMillan, Brenda Pendry, Viola Person, Bob and Carol Petrie, Linda Vernick, Marc Vernick and Sarah Von Moll.

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. If you wish to commune from the Common Cup do not take an individual cup. 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
Host/Hostess

*Scott Thieman
Roger Medlin
xxxxx*

Participants for Next Sunday

Lector
Communion Assistant
Host/Hostess

*Cathy George
Bill Sontag
xxxxx*

Divine Service Setting 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. You are encouraged to talk to God before the Service, let God talk to you in the Service, then talk to one another **after** the Service.*

Organ Prelude

Gabriels' Message

Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

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

Processional Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
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.



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

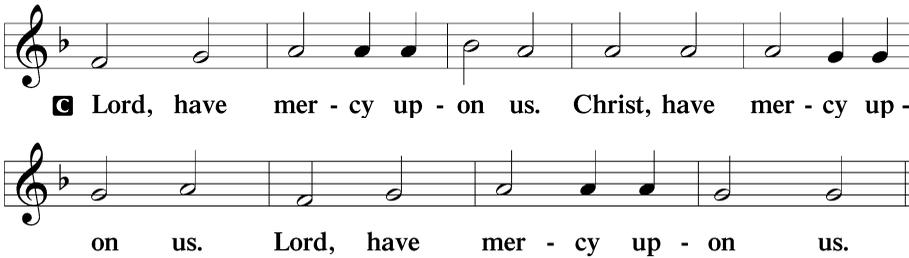
Introit

- C** Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
 that the mountains might quake at your presence.
 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
 and in his word I hope;
 my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
 more than watchmen for the morning.
 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
 and with him is plentiful redemption.
 And he will redeem Israel
 from all his iniquities.

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

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

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

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Matthew 1:18–25

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



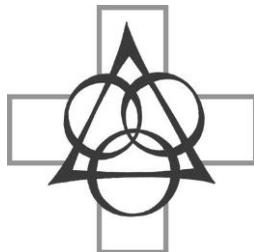
C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

☩ 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



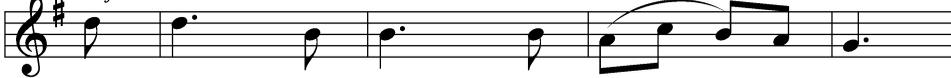
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



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

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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

C Amen.

Offering - *Please take this time to sign in the Welcome Book at the end of your pew.*

(Loose coins directly support LCMS families studying for the ministry through Coins for Christ)

Anthem

O Come, O Come Immanuel

Natalie Sleeth

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.

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 spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto 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

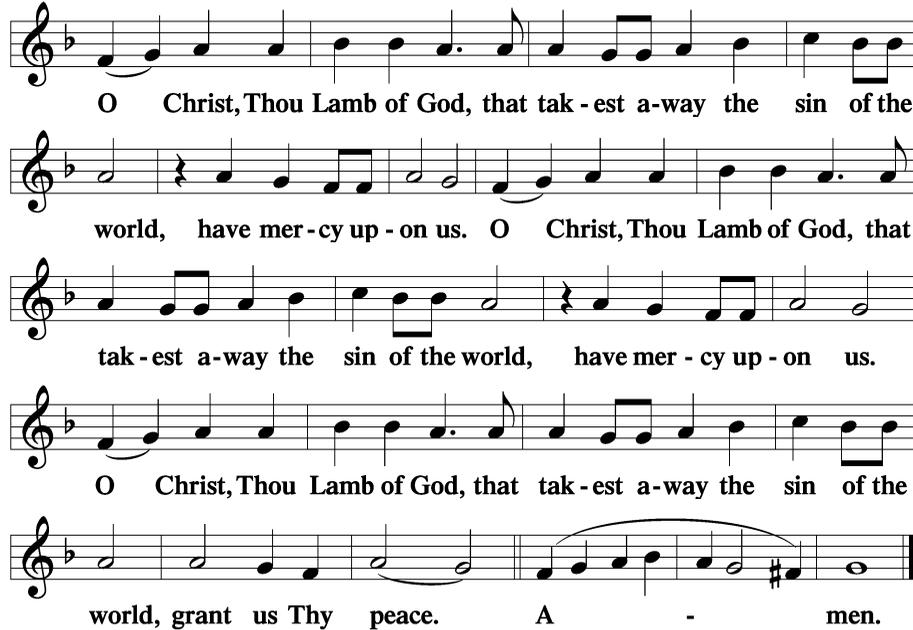
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

Please respect the time of silence at the beginning of the Eucharist before the Distribution Hymns are begun. While this is time for some to commune it is also a time for introspection and helps quiet our imagination, our worries and our toils so as to join our hearts to the prayers and be fully attentive to whatever the Holy Spirit should inspire in us. This silence is an active, not a passive disposition. This form of interior silence does not impede, and indeed favors, full and active participation in those parts of the celebration where the community is united in acclamation and song, for each person is more fully aware of what he or she is doing.

Distribution

The body and blood of Christ are distributed to those who come to receive.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

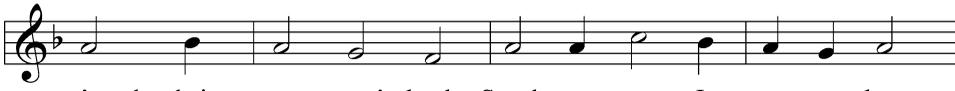
- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord

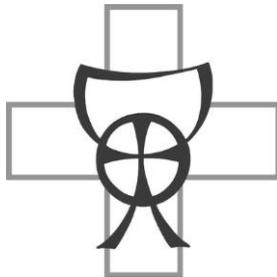


Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain





- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.

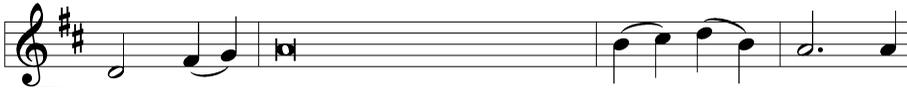


When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
 But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
 And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
 The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt., Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

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 Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

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 gracious unto you.

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

C Amen, amen, amen.

Recessional Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song,
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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

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**We invite you to join us in Worship during this special portion of the Church Year.
Please come and bring a friend!**

Worship Services

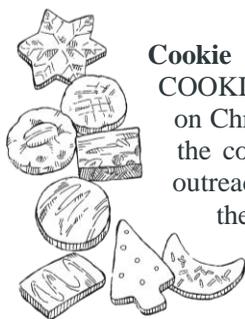
<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> - Sunday, December 18 th	10:00am
Caroling to the Homebound	11:30 am
<i>Christmas Eve Services</i> - Saturday, December 24 th	
Family Candlelight Communion Service	7:00 pm
<i>Christmas Day</i> - Sunday, December 25 th	
A Service of Readings and Carols with Communion	10:00 am
<i>Name of Jesus/New Year's Day</i> - Sunday, January 1 st	
Communion Worship Service	10:00 am

NOTE: There will be NO Adult Bible Study on Sunday Dec. 25th or Sunday January 1st.
The Bible Study will start up again on Sunday January 8th.

2023 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up in the Welcome Center this morning. Please check your box for your name, the numbers have remained the same. 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.

***PORTALS OF PRAYER* for January - March are now available.** You may pick one up from the Narthex as you exit this morning.

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound will be held today following the Worship Service. Trinity's shut-in members look forward to visits from you. Share the Christmas spirit by lending your voice and enjoy good fellowship. A light lunch will be served after Worship Service before we go caroling. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.



Cookie Pack for the Military – Again this year we will be supplying **HOMEMADE COOKIES** for Boyd Sylvester to deliver to service members standing their watch on the piers on Christmas Eve. The ladies will be meeting tomorrow December 19th at 10:00 am to pack the cookies into gift bags. A special thank you to all who made cookies for this special outreach event. We are truly excited to be able to minister to our military and let them know they are thought of at Christmas.

All ladies – The LWML will be holding their Epiphany Lunch out on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 12:00 pm Surf Rider Restaurant, 928 Diamond Springs Rd, Virginia Beach. More details will be coming soon! Please let us know you are interested in joining us for this wonderful fellowship event by signing up in the Welcome Center.



Helen Everett will be turning 102 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
The Gardens of Virginia Beach
5620 Wesleyan Drive, Room 131
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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

December 2022 Presentation

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” That eternal truth from Psalm 24:1 has formed the basis for an incredible journey over the past four years here at Trinity Lutheran Church. On a regular basis, someone from our congregation has stood before you and presented a truth from God's Word concerning money, material possessions and giving. And it has all been based on Psalm 24:1. “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

Tolstoy said that when a person is confronted with the truth, he or she must change his or her lifestyle or conscience. For 48 months, we have been presenting scriptural truths with the expectation that this would lead to a change in lifestyle on the part of all those who hear it or read it in publications of our church. What kinds of truths have we considered?

Truths such as

- God owns it all. We are just managers and stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.
- Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. How we use the amount of money which God has entrusted to us makes the difference. Thus, money can be a blessing or a curse, depending on our attitude towards it.
- Because all that we have belongs to God and is a gift from Him, our goal in using that which belongs to God is to glorify Him.
- God grants to mankind the ability to earn money and wealth which already belong to Him, and God uses money as a tool, as a test and as a testimony in the lives of His people.
- The primary reason for obtaining wealth is to be able to give it to God. Christian stewardship, then, is an expression of the fruit of the Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit within us.
- We give because God first gave to us. Therefore, the most important thing in giving is not the percentage or the amount, but the reason or motive why we give. God's universal principle about giving is this: Give willingly from the heart.
- Giving is to be done voluntarily, cheerfully, sacrificially, generously and quietly as God has prospered us. We are to give to those who minister to us, with the local church being a priority.

Speaking of the conversion of Zacchaeus, Haddon Robinson wrote,

During dinner, something happened that revolutionized the tax collector's life. . . .when Zacchaeus emerged from the house that afternoon, he made a dramatic announcement. He promised to give away half of his wealth to poor people and to return fourfold the amount of money he had taken dishonestly. . . .The mark of Zacchaeus' transformation was his staggering generosity. That's why Jesus declared, “Today salvation has come to this house.” Obviously, salvation isn't bought with money, but one evidence of whether or not people have trusted Christ is how completely they trust Him with all they own.

As we come to the close of this series, in light of all that we have learned and in view of the spending decisions which lie ahead, may we display a love and generosity that is compatible with God's boundless grace to us.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 18 th	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
	Adult Bible Class	9:00 am
	Communion Worship Service	10:00 am
	Caroling to Homebound	Following Worship
Monday, December 19 th	Cookie Pack	10:00 am
	Bowling League	6:30 pm
Thursday, December 22 nd	Ladies Bible Study	11:30 am
	Choir Rehearsal	4:30 pm
Friday, December 23 rd	Office Closes at Noon	
Saturday, December 24 th	Christmas Eve	
	Family Candlelight Worship Service	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25 th	The Nativity of Our LORD/Christmas Day	
	Lessons and Carols w/Communion Worship Service	10:00 am

Scriptures for December 25th

Genesis 2:4-9 ~ Genesis 22:15-18 ~ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Micah 5:2-4 ~ Luke 1:26-38 ~ Luke 2:1-7
Luke 2:8-16 ~ Matthew 2:1-11 ~ John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 11, 2022
Worship Attendance – 84

SECURITY ISSUE – Please note that the front entrance to the Church will remain locked to people entering on Sunday mornings (it is still available to exit the building). Please use the side entrance coming in from our parking lot as you arrive for Bible Class or Worship Service. For the security of the building, it is easier to monitor one entrance. If you prefer to enter the Sanctuary from the Narthex, you may do so by walking through the Welcome Center, past the offices and into the Narthex. As you exit the Sanctuary at the end of the Service, the Pastor will greet you at the doors of the Narthex. Then you may exit thru the front doors or make your way back to the Welcome Center to enjoy fellowship time. We greatly appreciate your patience as we learn to navigate in this different world.