

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



PRELUDE

“Good Good Father”

Tomlin/Brown

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who you are
It's who you are
It's who you are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As you call me deeper still
As you call me deeper still
As you call me deeper still
Into love love love

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WELCOME STATEMENT

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
 The King of creation
 O my soul praise Him
 For He is your health and salvation
 Come all who hear now to His
 temple draw near
 Join me in glad adoration

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord
 Above all things so wondrously reigning
 Sheltering you under His wings
 And so gently sustaining
 Have you not seen all that is needful has been
 Sent by His gracious ordaining

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord
 Who will prosper your work and defend you
 Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
 If with His love He befriends you

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GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Chorus

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
 God of glory Lord of love
 Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
 Opening to the sun above

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord
 O let all that is in me adore Him
 All that hath life and breath
 Come now with praises before Him
 Let the amen sound from His people again
 Gladly forever adore Him

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Isaiah 2:1-5*

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of the Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING*Romans 13:11-14*

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

A reading from Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands.)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

HYMN OF THE DAY

"One More Day"

Sons of Sunday

Verse 1

I'm a sinner grace is still healing
I'm a story time is revealing
I'm all of these things
But mostly I'm thankful
I'm a fighter caught in a struggle
A survivor rising above it
I'm all of these things
But mostly I'm thankful

Verse 2

When the night was closing in on me
Didn't know if I'd see the morning
You held on to me
And Jesus I'm grateful
When my enemies turned up the fire
El Shaddai You were right there beside me
You showed up for me
And Jesus I'm grateful

Chorus

'Cause You gave me one more day
To say I love You
You have brought me all this way
To testify Your grace
What more can I say
But hallelujah
Thank You Jesus
Thank You Jesus
Thank You Jesus
'Cause You gave me one more day
(One more day one more day)

Bridge

Oh Lord I just really wanna praise You
You mean everything everything
Everything to me

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith through the words of the 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

After each prayer petition, please respond: ...God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

...Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

OFFERING / OFFERING HYMN

“The Good Shepherd”

Fernando Ortega

Chorus

I am The Good Shepherd
I lay down my life for you
Enter in enter in enter in
I am The Good Shepherd
As the Father knows me I know you
I know you I know you I know you
And no one can take you away
And no one can take you away
You are The Good Shepherd
You lay down your life for me
Enter in enter in enter in
You are The Good Shepherd
As the Father knows you you know me
You know me you know me you know me
And no one can take you away
And no one can take you away

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.....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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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 HOLY COMMUNION**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Overflow"

Matt Maher

Verse 1

Your grace is power
Your will forever
Your love is a river
Overflow in me

Verse 2

Your Word true presence
Your body our recompense
Your blood salvation
Overflow in me

Chorus

(Oh) overflow in me my Lord
Overflow in me my Lord
Let Your people bless You
As Your cup is poured
Overflow in me my Lord
Overflow in me my Lord

Verse 3

Your worship of You
It's Your gift to us from You
No one could give this gift but You
Overflow in me

Bridge

We lift up our hearts
We lift up our souls
We lift up our minds
And ev'ry good thing is Yours
Yeah ev'ry good thing is Yours
So overflow

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Call It Grace”

Unspoken

Verse 1

It's the light that pierces through to you
To the darkest hidden place
It knows your deepest secrets
But it never looks away
It's the gentle hand that pulls you
From the judgment of the crowd
When you stand before them guilty
And you've got no way out

Chorus 1

Some may call it foolish and impossible
But for every heart it rescues it's a miracle
It's nothing less than scandalous
This love that took our place
Just call it what it is
Call it grace

Verse 2

It's the breath that's breathing new life
Into what we thought was dead
It's the favor that takes orphans
Placing crowns upon their heads
It's the hope for our tomorrows
The rock on which we stand
It's a strong and mighty fortress
Even hell can't stand against

Bridge

Amazing unshaking this is grace this is grace
Unchanging unfailing this is grace this is grace

Chorus 2

Some may call it foolish and impossible
But for every heart it rescues it's a miracle
It's nothing less than scandalous
That Jesus took our place
Call it what it is
Just call it what it is
Call it grace

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SENDING

Our Eucharist has ended.

Now it must be lived.

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **Today, November 30th, after Service, we will need help decorating the trees!** Any amount of time you can help is greatly appreciated!
- The **Fifth Sunday Meal** will be hosted at Open Table **today, November 30th** at Noon.
- As the holiday season approaches, we want to ensure that all families in our congregation have the support they need. **If you or your family are facing challenges this season**, please out to Pastor Phil Potaczek or our parish nurse, Carol Wahlstrom. Our Mission and Outreach committees have resources available and are ready to help where possible. You are not alone. Let's walk through this season together!
- **Trinity extends its gratitude to the Sunrise Rotary club for their GENEROUS donation of a new oven / stove to our Fellowship Hall kitchen.** Their generosity ensures that cherished community events like the German Dinner, Lenten soup suppers, and Easter brunch may continue for many more years to come.
- **December 2nd, Givebutter** (Trinity's donation platform), **will match 1% of every dollar raised** and stored in Givebutter Wallet. Funds held in TLC's Givebutter Wallet earn 2.5% APY rewards every month, so our donations keep growing. To support Trinity Lutheran Church through Givebutter use your phone's camera to scan the QR code or visit <https://givebutter.com/trinity-lutheran-church-ottawa>.



- **Trinity Evangelical Church in Marseilles will once again be sponsoring a cookie drive.** Cookies will be packaged and distributed to patients of local nursing homes, Veterans home, the Youth Detention Home, Under His Wings, Servant's Heart, Lamb's Fold and other charitable organizations. They will need approximately **6,000 to 10,000 cookies**. Please put the number of cookies on the outside of your package. As in the past, they are looking for assistance in providing cookies and packing them. **Cookies can be delivered to the church on Sunday, November 30th, or brought the day of cookie packing.** Church office: 815-343-5537. **December 3rd 10 am, will be counting and packing day.** They are looking for volunteers to help count and pack. Please note: cookies can NOT contain nuts or fruits. Thank you for helping!
- Come see **The Prairie Singers, 38th Annual Free Christmas Concert Series "Comfort and Joy"**
Dec 2, 6:30 pm Prairie Creek Public Library, Dwight IL (Reservations Required but Free of Charge. Call 815-584-3061)
Dec 6, 7 pm United Methodist Church, Morris IL
Dec 7, 2 pm St. Patrick Catholic Church, Seneca IL
Dec 14, 2 pm St. Columba Catholic Church, Ottawa IL
- **Join us at the Wonder of Winter Gala, Saturday December 6, 7-9 pm.** It will be held at Prairie Fox Books, 719 LaSalle St, Ottawa. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 per couple. 21 & older only. There will be live music, an auction, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, & beverages. Wear festive attire! Thank you for supporting Trinity Rose Montessori School! Tickets are available at the Church Office.
- **Star Tree 2025!** Can you help make the Christmas season brighter for our community's kids? **Be a Star Tree Sponsor of a Youth Service Bureau young person.** Gift bags with wish lists attached can be found in the Java Junction area. On the sheet located on the kiosk, please sign your name next to the number found on the gift bag you are taking. **Return the gifts, UNWRAPPED, with the list attached, no later than Sunday, December 7th.** You may wish to go together on a bag with friends or other family members. Thank you so much for spreading the love of the season.

- **Here's another opportunity to share!** - the tree in Java Junction will be the collection point for **hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to help out those in need.** All child/youth/adult sizes are accepted. Thank you for your continuing generosity. For more information, contact the Mission/Outreach Team.
- The next **blood drive** at TLC will be on **December 17th.** Our parish nurse, Carol, needs help hosting the blood drive. Interested volunteers should connect with Carol for more information. Thank you!
- Come join our inter-generational and choral **Christmas program on Sunday, December 21st, during worship, at 10 am.**
- On **Christmas Eve** we are gathering for "**Communion and Carols**" at **5 pm.** All are welcome!
- **The 2026 calendars have arrived!** (\$20). Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 have copies available in Java Junction and in the church office. **Profits go to the Growing Project.**
- Many people in Jamaica and Haiti have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. You can give immediate help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At give.ELCA.org/hurricanes, just type in "Lutheran Disaster Response" and select Hurricane Helene and make a contribution. Or send a check to: Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.
- **By the grace of God, we did it!** 700+ cans of pumpkin pie mix were collected for the Community Food Basket by members and friends of Trinity Lutheran Church. So many of our neighbors are sure to have a happy Thanksgiving this year. Your ambitious efforts have made a positive impact in our local community. Thank you for so generously shining your light, Trinity.
- **Lectors Needed!** Please consider signing up to be a worship lector. This is the person who does the readings and the prayer petitions. Those who have done this in the past and new readers are all welcome to sign up for this very worthwhile and fulfilling ministry. Diane emails the readings and prayers four to five days in advance. **Sign-up is in the worship assistants' binder** in the Java Junction area, or call the church office 815-434-0596. Contact Pastor Phil if you have any questions.
- **Interested in getting more involved at Trinity Lutheran?** We have openings on Committees, Council & more! Contact Carol Wahlstrom 815-488-0321 / carolwahlstrom@gmail.com.
- **TLC Prayer Requests.**
 - . To submit a *public* prayer request to the congregation, please reach out to Diane (diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com).
 - . To submit a *private* prayer request, connect with Pastor Phil (pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com).
 - . When you submit a public prayer request, please include only the information you are comfortable having printed in the bulletin. We will publish the request as written, but may shorten it for clarity and privacy. If you wish to remain anonymous, please specify.
 - . Each request will appear in the bulletin once. We will publish updates as you provide them.
 - . Even when a request is no longer printed, our whole church family is encouraged to add these needs to their personal prayer lists.

Thank you for holding these requests before God with such care.

- *Pastor Phil*

- Have you seen the **ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue?** It's full of **ways to help people in developing countries.** You can: **Buy animals:** \$10 for chicks, \$50 for a goat, \$20 for honeybees, \$30 for a piglet. **Support health & nutrition:** \$30 for a water filter, \$30 for a child's vaccinations, \$10 for a mosquito net, \$25 for a hygiene kit. **Help in times of crisis:** \$10 for a blanket, \$50 to feed a refugee family for a week. **Agriculture:** \$50 for seeds and gardening tools, \$200 for a community vegetable garden, \$150 to start a fruit tree farm, \$10 for a fruit tree seedling. There's much more! The website is <https://goodgifts.elca.org>.

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Oct Income = \$15,391.44 (Income YTD = \$193,397.64)
- Oct Expense = \$18,617.14 (Expense YTD = \$200,114.72)
- Income Less Expense = -\$3,225.70 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$6,717.08)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$6,268.13

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (12/1):**
 - 10a Staff meeting
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 4:40p Mission Meeting (Community Room)
 - 6p Christian Education (Board Room)
- **Tuesday (12/2):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (12/3)** 1p Bible Study (Community Room)
No Choir Rehearsal
- **Thursday (12/4):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (12/5):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Community Room)
- **Saturday (12/6):** *National Gazpacho Day!* 🍅 🥑 🥒
- **Sunday (12/7)** *Second Sunday of Advent*
 - 9a Affirmation Class
 - 9a Sunday Session
 - 10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Volunteer*
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Beth Schuett*
 Communion Assistants: *Beth Schuett, Kari Castelli, Brad Gromm*
 Altar Guild: *Ann Enke & Kari Castelli*
 Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Reed Family*
 Video Tech:
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers: *In memory of Richard Scott Sr. & Zelpha Scott Grobe from Rick & Linda Scott*

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Madi Perino*
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Shannon Matteson*
 Communion Assistants: *Shannon Matteson, Ann Enke, Anne Lauterjung*
 Altar Guild: *Ann Enke & Annette Bruce*
 Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Manning Family*
 Video Tech:
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers: *In honor of Barb Cunningham from the Heider & McGrath Families*