

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*December 21, 2025*



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME STATEMENT**

**PROCESSIONAL**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW 254

**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.*

**Long-expected 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.**

Let us pray...

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**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.**

**PROCESSIONAL OF LIGHT**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

**FIRST READING: THE PROMISE OF LIGHT**

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

*Read by Anna Reed*

A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**CHORAL MUSIC 1**

“The First Light of Christmas”

Mark Burrows

Performed by TLC Choir & Youth

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**SECOND READING: THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

Luke 2:1–14

*Read by Pearl Manning*

A reading from Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

**THIRD READING: THE WISE MEN VISIT**

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–11

*Read by Reagan Duffield*

A reading from Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**CHORAL MUSIC 2**

“One Small Child”

David Meece

Performed by G.G. Riva & TLC Choir

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**BRIEF REFLECTION:**

“The Light That Lives in Us”

*Read by Dylan Spence & G.G. Riva*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Christmas Songs of Joy”

Joseph Martin

Performed by TLC Youth & Congregation

*(Congregation, please join in when directed)*

- v.1. **Gloria.....in excelsis Deo!**
- v.2. **Noel, noel.....noel, noel**  
**Born is the King of Israel**
- v.3. **Joy to the world! The Lord is come**  
**Let earth receive her King.**  
**Let every heart prepare Him room,**  
**And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,**  
**And heaven and heaven and nature sing!**

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## **PROFESSION OF FAITH: 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**

*Read by Madi Perino*

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

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

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you always.   **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC**

“Messiah”

Larry Olson

Performed by Mary Heider, Casey McGrath, and Pastor Phil Potaczek

© 1989 Dakota Road Music, CCLI# 1454269

## **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.**

## **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**

ELW Setting 8, page 190

## **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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Modern Version*

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 MUSIC**

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

ELW 251

## **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

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

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### SENDING

Siblings in Christ, our Eucharist has ended.

**Now it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

### **\*\*\*Trinity at a Glance\*\*\***

- 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 reach 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!
- **The tree in the Lounge has been decorated.** Please stop by to see it!
- On **Christmas Eve** we are gathering for "**Communion and Carols**" at **5 pm**. All are welcome!
- **Christmas Dinner will be served 11am-1pm at Open Table Ottawa.** Dinner is free and open to all!
- **Sunday January 11th immediately after Service**, we will hold the **Property Committee** Informational meeting.
- ***Why the Christmas Trees Stay Up Through Epiphany***  
*In the Christian tradition, Christmas is not just a day, it is a season that lasts twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. We keep the Christmas trees up through Epiphany (January 6) to celebrate the full season and to mark the day when Christ is revealed as the Light for all nations. If Epiphany falls midweek, many churches will wait until the following Sunday (the Baptism of Our Lord). During this time immediately after Epiphany, the lights on the trees remind us of the star that led the Magi and of Jesus, the Light of the world. By leaving the trees up through Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, we honor the whole story of Christmas: Christ is born, and Christ is revealed to all people as God's Son.*
- **On January 11, 2026**, after the Property Committee Informational meeting, **Trinity will be taking down the decorations and trees** in the Sanctuary. Please come and join us! Help is always appreciated! There is a sign up sheet in Java Junction.
- The tree in Java Junction will be the collection point for **hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to help out those in need. January 11th will be the last day for collection.** All child/youth/adult sizes are accepted. Thank you for your continuing generosity. For more information, contact the Mission/Outreach Team.
- **Sunday January 18th immediately after Service** we will hold the **Finance Committee** Informational meeting.
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- Many people in Jamaica and Haiti have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. You can give help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At [give.ELCA.org/hurricanes](https://give.ELCA.org/hurricanes), just type in "Lutheran Disaster Response," select Hurricane Helene, make a contribution. Or send a check to: Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.
- **TLC Prayer Requests.**
  - . To submit a *public* prayer request to the congregation, please reach out to Diane ([diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com](mailto:diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com)).
  - . To submit a *private* prayer request, connect with Pastor Phil ([pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com](mailto: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:**

- Nov Income = \$21,671.17 (Income YTD = \$215,068.81)
- Nov Expense = \$21,920.12 (Expense YTD = \$222,034.84)
- Income Less Expense = -\$248.95 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$6,966.03)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$3,341.24

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (12/22):** 10a Staff meeting  
10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
- **Tuesday (12/23):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (12/24)** Christmas Eve ✨  
*Church Office Closed*  
*No Bible Study*  
*No Choir Rehearsal*  
5p Holy Communion & Carols
- **Thursday (12/25):** Christmas Day ✚  
*Church Office Closed*  
*No Sit Fit*  
*No Trinity Stitches*
- **Friday (12/26):** *No Sunrise Rotary*
- **Saturday (12/27):** *National Leftovers Day!* 🍴
- **Sunday (12/28)** First Sunday of Christmas  
*No Sunday Session*  
*No Affirmation Class*  
10a Holy Communion

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -**

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

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Reagan Duffield*  
Ushers:  
Lector: *Christmas Program Participants*  
Communion Assistants: *Jane Goetz, Brad Gromm, Anne Lauterjung*  
Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Gross Family*  
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*  
Altar Flowers: *In memory of Paul & Gert Barron from Anne, Brent & Family*

**Sunday, December 24, 2025**

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Pearl*  
Ushers:  
Lector: *Jane Goetz*  
Communion Assistants: *Kari Castelli*  
Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung & Linda Scott*  
Advent Wreath Lighters: *The Boyles Family*  
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*  
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*  
Altar Flowers: *Poinsettias (Please take home after service)*  
*In honor of Harold & Joan Salzman, Darren Heldt, Jan Walker, Walter & Gloria Bromann.*  
*In memory of Walter & Kevin, Gordon & Carol Gross, Greg Matteson, Gary Grunstad, Mike Murphy, Bec & Jim Schnepple, Tom Frederick, Rev. Tom Siebert, Katie & Corey Woods*