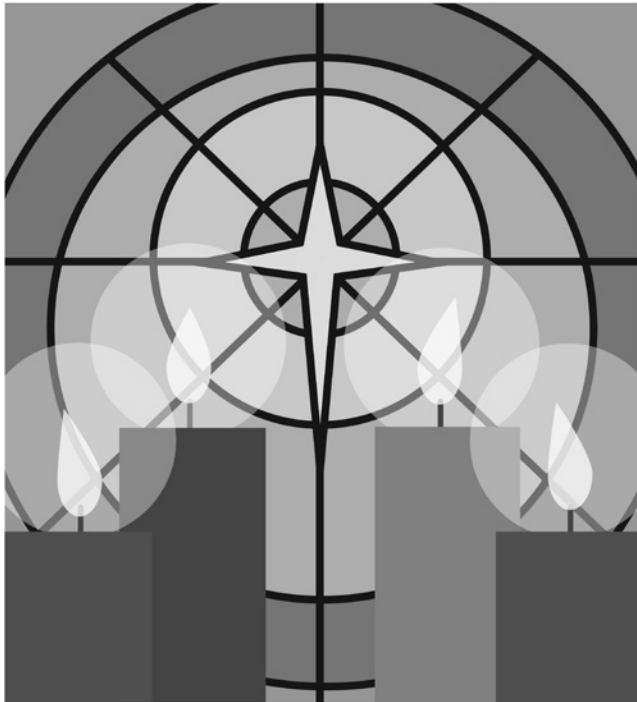


FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*



TRINITY  LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Sunday, December 22, 2024  
9:00 am Service

# Order of Worship

**Prelude**

**Christmas Selections**

Handbell Choir

**Welcome**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

*God of mercy,*

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

*God of might,*

**We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

*God in our midst,*

**We confess that we have sinned, and ask your forgiveness. Come to us, bringing your mercy to birth in us. Amen.**

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

**Opening Hymn**

***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

**Hymn #254**

*sung to the tune of Hymn #707*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone,  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Invocation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Liturgy

Setting Four, page 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God  
and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## Prayer of the Day

*Gracious Lord God,*

**As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace. For the sake of the one whose name brings life to all the world, Jesus Christ, Infant King.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Moment and Lighting of the Advent Wreath****Song*****He Came Down That We May Have Love*****Hymn #253**

He came down that we may have love,  
He came down that we may have love,  
He came down that we may have love,  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have hope...  
He came down that we may have peace...  
He came down that we may have joy...

**Reading****Luke 1:26-45***Mary and Elizabeth's Visitors*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, whose name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Word of our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

### ***In The Bleak Midwinter***

### **Hymn #294**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed,  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

*Congregational Response: Hear our prayer.*

## Sharing of the Peace

### Offering

*Thank you for your continued financial support.  
Give online at [www.trin.org/give](http://www.trin.org/give). Text donation amount to 833-381-0691.*



### Offertory Response

***Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am***

**Hymn #814**

Take, oh, take me as I am, summon out what I shall be,  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

## Holy Communion

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*Please come forward for Holy Communion this morning by using the center aisle and returning by the side aisle. If you prefer, gluten free wafers are available on the center table and white grape juice is located in the inner circle of the tray.*

### Communion Music

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

Worship Choir

## Closing Prayer

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, O God. Open our ears to the words of your prophets. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors. Open our hearts to the presence of your Spirit, that we might serve you with joy as we walk in your path of peace. Amen.**

## Benediction

May Almighty God, Creator, Christ, and Comforter, keep you in God's light, God's truth, and God's love, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

### *The Bells of Christmas*

**Hymn #298**

*Verses 1-4*

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more, the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still, with new year gifts of peace, good will.
2. This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.
3. Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
To gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.
4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king,  
Until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*He Is Born*

Handbell Choir



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*Faithful Living. Changing Lives.*

Jeffrey M. Engholm, Pastor  
Chelsea Farniok, Children's Ministry  
Accompanist: Joy Rundell  
Choir Director: Hannah Rosholt

\*\*\*\*\*

### **In Our Prayers this Week:**

Elvina Nelson, Don Hendricks, Dick Stadtlander, Leon Fritzke,  
Nancy Fritzke (wife of Frank Fritzke), John Panzer (brother of Mike Panzer),  
Lisa Diffley (niece of Liz Hirsch), Ned Lindberg (brother of Tom Lindberg),  
Dick Erickson, Aiko Landgraf (niece of Sue Magnuson),  
our missionary in Papua New Guinea, Rev. Andrew Ronnevik and family

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### **Announcements**

You are invited to enjoy coffee and conversation in the  
Gathering Hall following worship today.

**The Rescheduled Golden Agers / OWLS Advent Lunch** will take place  
today, December 22 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All Trinity Golden Agers  
(members 70+) and OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are invited to attend.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Tuesday, December 24 | 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm

**2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.**

**Snow Tubing at Elm Creek** Trinity Youth Ministry is going Snow Tubing at Elm Creek  
in Maple Grove on Sunday, January 19 from 3:15 - 7:30 pm. Families and friends  
are invited to come along, too! The cost is \$18 per person, which includes bus  
transportation and two hours of tubing. Register at [www.trin.org](http://www.trin.org) under **EVENTS**,  
and get ready for an awesome winter outing! Registration deadline is January 10.