

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1410 Rogers St
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Pastor Joyce Heintz
Ministers: Every Baptized Member
Sunday, December 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.



Trinity's Mission

Bringing God's love to the world in worship, witness, and service.

Trinity's Vision

A Christ and Scripture centered congregation.

- Mission centered congregation constantly evaluating its vision to accomplish its mission.
- A congregation whose members sense that they belong to the body of Christ and, in turn want to provide for the needs of others.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

ACS Holy Communion Setting 12

Introduction to the day

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *"Into the Darkness of This World"* Maggi Dawn

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message and Candle Lighting

***Candle Lighting/Gathering Song: "Come Light Our Hearts"** Sandra McCracken

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You, tru - ly our hope is in You. 1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance 2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we shines on all who look to You in the dark. Em - man - u - el come, come light our hearts. find more than e - nough. We come as we are; O heal and re - store, come light our hearts." The score includes a "VERSE" box and a "3rd time to Coda" instruction with a Coda symbol. Chord letters E, A, and B are placed above the notes.

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For

5 E A E
You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You,

10 *3rd time to Coda* \oplus B E
tru - ly our hope is in You. 1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we

15 A B E
shines on all who look to You in the dark. Em - man - u - el come, come light our hearts.
find more than e - nough. We come as we are; O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

Greeting

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.**

Kyrie (sung before and after each petition)

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Band Song:

“Magnificat”

Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend

A Poem for Advent Four: A Song of Becoming

She rose with haste,
as though the earth itself called her to move,
to cross the distance from one body to another,
from one story to another,
where lives entwine in ways we can barely understand.
There is a meeting here,
a meeting between the past and what is yet to come,
between the barren and the fertile,
between the waiting and the fulfilled.

The child in her womb stirs,
and something within her stirs in return.
She carries not just her own hope,
but the weight of generations,
and yet it is the smallest things that begin to change everything.
A touch, a voice, and the world is made new.

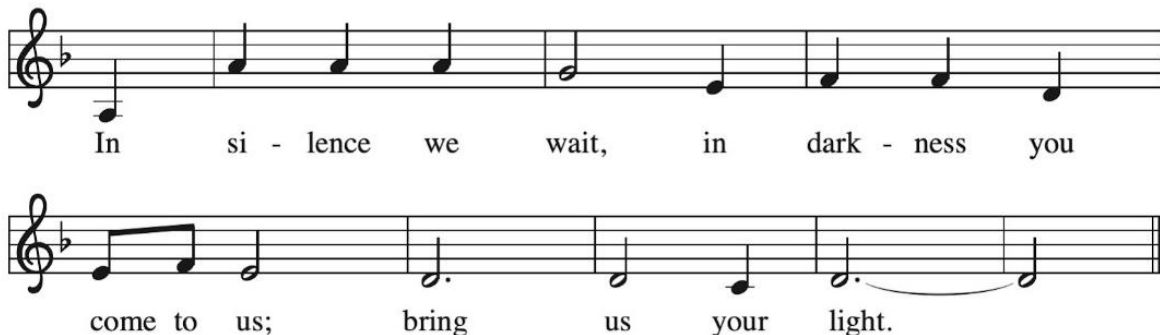
Elizabeth's greeting echoes,
a voice lifting in praise, like the first rain after drought,
filling the dry places with the promise of life.
"Blessed are you among women,"
and in those words,
something ancient shifts,
something fragile and strong woven into the very fabric of creation.
She does not ask why,
only wonders,
feeling the world turn quietly inside her.

It is not in the roar of power that grace is found,
but in this exchange,
this quiet recognition,
this reverberation of God's presence in the most ordinary of moments.

My soul magnifies the Lord—
not because of what has been done,
but because of what is still unfolding,
the turning of hearts,
the lifting of the low,
the scattering of the proud.
In the smallest of things,
in the simplest of exchanges,
the world finds its center again.

She is not alone.
In the silent turning,
we are all part of the becoming—
each step a whisper,
each word a seed,
each song a ripple across time.
And here, in this moment,
God is close,
in the meeting of lives,
in the quiet grace of new beginnings.

Gospel Acclamation: "In Silence We Wait" ACS #998 (sing 2x)



In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: "Joy...Really?!" Todd Lewis

Hymn of the Day: "Joy To The World" (Unspeakable Joy)

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash
George Frideric Handel
Isaac Watts | Matt Gilder

Advent Creed

We believe in God the Father, Ruler of the universe;
Creator of all and giver of life.
With patience and hope, he waits for us to see him,
To love his creation, and all its people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son;
Who once came to live as God with us;
Who will come again, one day, to be God for us.
He loves us with a powerful passion
And has given his life and has risen from the grave
For the forgiveness of our sins against God.
We look forward to the day when he comes to us again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The living, moving Power that blows like a wind among us;
Who empowers us, renews us, and strengthens us
For our journey of faith. Amen.

Prayer Song:

"Emmanuel"

Bob McGee

(sing 2x before and 1x after prayers)

$\text{♩} = 80$ C/E F F/E Dm7 G7 C Gm6/B \flat A7 A7/C \sharp

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is

6 Dm Dm/C G7/B G C E7 F F/E Dm7 G7

called Em - man - u - el: God with us, re - vealed in

12 C Gm6/B \flat A7 A7/C \sharp Dm Dm/C G7/B G C

us! His name is called Em - man - u - el.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer Song:

"Emmanuel"

(1x after prayers)

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

Offering Song: **“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”** **ELW #247**

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in † Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Song: **“Go Out With Joy”** Amanda Udis-Kessler.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

