



*Nurturing a Living Faith  
with Open Hearts  
and Serving Hands*

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**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.”*

**4th Sunday of Advent  
Dec. 22, 2024  
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**



**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** “The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth” Special Music (10:30)

**WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: Holy God, you gather us together as your people. Help us. Remind us of your grace and mercy. Help us each day to see your grace-filled beginnings. Hear us as we confess to you:

*Moment of silence*

L: For times when we fail to recognize that your grace is for us.

**C: Forgive us.**

L: For the times when we forget that you not only love us, but also that you love all people.

**C: Forgive us.**

L: For the days when we fail to share your love and grace:

**C: Forgive us.**

L: For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone else tell theirs.

**C: Forgive us.**

A: For the times we exclude people from the community into which you draw us.

**C: Forgive us.**

L: For the times we are afraid to follow you.

**C: Forgive us.**

L: Dear friends, God is at work in our lives though it might be difficult to see some days. God’s grace will continually claim, restore, and remind us once again that we are loved. In the name of Jesus (+) your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to love.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**OPENING SONG**

“All Earth is Hopeful”  
“Jesus, Name Above All Names”  
CCLI #21291

ELW #266 (8:30)  
On screen (10:30)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God’s grace is for us.

**C: We wonder if God can really do all the work.**

L: We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God is for us.

**C: We are focused on getting everything accomplished by a deadline.**

L: During this season of Wonder, let us remember that God, in love, brought salvation to us.

**C: God’s grace brings us joy.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel. **C: God brings us joy.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **C: God brings us joy.**

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **C: God brings us joy.**

L: God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. **C: God brings us joy.**

L: We light the first candle to declare to everyone that grace brings us joy.

**Welcome to  
Worship at Trinity  
Lutheran**

*Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The church is not a building – it is you, the people. So “church,” thanks for showing up today. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the “church.”*

*We are thankful you are here. Through God’s Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of your grace that brings us joy. Free us from all that binds us, that we may receive your joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;
- <sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

- <sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;
- <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.
- <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
- <sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky.  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor ord'-n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

WOV #642

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55**

(8:30)

*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.*

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 1, beginning with verse 39. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

**SERMON/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor Mark Narum (8:30)

**Church School Christmas Program 2024**

(10:30)

**SONG OF THE DAY**

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

ELW #251

**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.**

***THIS WEEK AT TRINITY***

**Sunday 12-22**  
8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary  
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall  
9:35 AM - Church School  
10:30 AM - Worship/Church School Prog. in Sanctuary

**Tuesday 12-24 - OFFICE CLOSED**  
3 PM - Worship in Sanctuary  
5 PM - Worship in Sanctuary  
10 PM - Worship in Sanctuary

**Wednesday 12-25 - OFFICE CLOSED**  
10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary

**Sunday 12-29**  
8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary  
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall  
10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ELW #272 (8:30)

*Verse 1*

*Please pray for James, Terry, Dick, Wendy, Alan & Louise.*

*Repeat Prayer Song*

**OFFERING MUSIC**

"In a Far Off Place"

ACS #908 (10:30)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of grace, you draw us together as the body of Christ and sustain us by your Holy Spirit. Lead us out of darkness and into the light, where we can clearly see the gifts you have given us. We praise you with our time, talents, and treasures, holding fast to your promise that your grace, given to us through the power of your son, Jesus Christ, is for us. Amen.

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

The grace of God is for us, and God prepares our hearts to receive it. The grace of God pulls us together into a joyous community. May the Holy Spirit lead you to the manger where the grace of God through + Jesus Christ is found.  
Amen.

**SENDING SONG**

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

**DISMISSAL**

Journey to the manger.

**Where God’s grace is found.**

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*Taken from “Advent 2024 Worship Resources based on ‘Grace Filled Beginnings’ by John Stevens” Western North Dakota Synod of the ELCA 2024*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024**

**RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM** is given in memory of family gone before us. Given by James & LaRayne Martel.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING** - This year council has designated Heart River Bridges of Hope as this year’s recipient. Bridges of Hope is a ministry of Heart River Lutheran Church, which worships on the campus the Youth Correctional Center in Mandan. If you would like to make a donation, you can write a check, drop it in the offer plate or mail it to Trinity and in the memo line write: Heart River Bridges. Blessings and thanks for your generosity.

**COZY CHRISTMAS** - Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m. Christmas morning worship is a great way to start the day. Come in your pajamas or other comfortable clothes. There will be hot cocoa and cookies - bring your own travel mug if you want.

**RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM SIGN-UP** - The sign-up sheet for 2025 is located in the Narthex. Please turn in the additional form with your payment - *it is helpful to receive payment up front if possible*. The cost is \$250 for each Sunday.



**“WHAT SHALL I GIVE HIM?” CONCERT** - Dakota Pro Musica is presenting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas services **TONIGHT** at First Lutheran Church of Mandan on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**NEW CHAIRS** - Trinity’s Fellowship Hall has new chairs. Several months ago, some members of the congregation asked that a special fund be created so that new chairs could be purchased. In the memo line of the check please write “Chairs.” We estimate that \$35 will cover the cost of a chair with tax. Thank you for your support!

**END OF YEAR GIVING** - If you are going to do end of year giving, please have your checks in by Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP TIMES:**

- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve worship - 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 10 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - Cozy Christmas worship - 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 1 - No Worship

**OFFICE CLOSED DATES:**

- December 24, 25, 31
- January 1

**ONLINE GIVING** - Giving has never been easier! Open your camera on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you right to Trinity’s online giving site. You can choose to give via credit card or bank account. Try it out today!

