



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

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Introduction to the Day

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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

***1st Week of Advent
Wednesday
Dec. 4, 2024
6 p.m.***



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Bethlehem Highway”
CCLI #1940862

WELCOME

CONFESSION & 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

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”

ACS #905

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 is for us.

***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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: God says I will keep my promises.

C: God's grace is for us.

L: God is our righteousness.

C: God's grace is for us.

L: God teaches us God's way.

C: God's grace is for us.

L: We light the first candle to declare to everyone that God's grace is for us.

SONG

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

ELW #239

Verse 1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You, O God, work through grace-filled beginnings. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us to your grace. In all things, help us to know that your grace is for us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 21, beginning with verse 25. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

CHILDREN'S TIME/SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY/OFFERING

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

ELW #257

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.

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 THE PEOPLE

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

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 COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we give you thanks for this meal of Grace, where you pull us together to receive the bountiful blessings of your love. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift of faith as we look to the one, we find in the manger, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

ELW #671

DISMISSAL

Journey to the manger.
Where God's grace is found.

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POINSETTIA DONATION



We are now receiving donations for our Christmas display of poinsettias. We will be purchasing 36 poinsettias this year. Poinsettias can be ordered for Trinity shut-ins, as well as for those who wish to take a plant home *after Christmas worship*. If there are more than 36 poinsettia donations, the funds will go to our 2024 offering benevolence, Heart River Bridges of Hope. Poinsettia donations are \$17. All donations and accompanying dedications will be listed in the Christmas bulletins & E-News. Turn this & your payment into the office or offering basket **by Monday, December 16th**. THANK YOU!

_____ I would like to take a poinsettia home. Amount Paid: _____
_____ I would like to give a poinsettia to a shut-in or leave my plant at the church.

My gift is in memory of: _____
OR my gift is in honor of: _____
Given by: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Julius & Alta Burzloff.

DECORATING FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - Many hands are needed to help set up and decorate the many Christmas trees, mangers, wreaths, lights & poinsettia displays around our church building! We will decorate after worship **TONIGHT** and could use all the help we can get. We appreciate your consideration!

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY - Tuesday, 691 pounds of food were delivered to Ministry on the Margins from Trinity's November food drive. Your response was overwhelming. By working together you helped hungry people to be fed.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING - It has been a tradition at Trinity that a special offering is taken during the Christmas Season. 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. This congregation has a history of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the youth who are housed at the correctional center. Recently women have also begun to be housed on the same grounds, so Heart River's ministry has also expanded to these women.

Their Bridges of Hope Ministry works to engage those who are incarcerated but also provides after care resources, as well as support for the families of those who are incarcerated. 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.

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. The blue chairs had been gifted to Trinity after a couple of decades of use at Good Shepherd. They were a good short-term solution. Now it is time to replace them. If you would like to "buy a new chair" you can drop a check in the offering plate or at the office. 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!

CIVIC CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - The Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus conducted by Dr. Tom Porter will perform their Christmas Concert at Trinity again this year. They will perform in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 14th @ 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, December 15th @ 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BAKING NEEDED - Christmas goodies will again be shared with people on our Holiday Delivery List. Please bring your baked goods to the church office **no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18th**. We will gather the goodies in the Conference Room and sort them after worship that evening. If you are able to help deliver some baked goods please let Klarissa know. *Please limit your donations to cookies and bars.* Thank you for blessing others for the Holiday Season!

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!



THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Wednesday 12-4

- 2:30 PM - Upstairs Bible Study in Room 212
- 5:15 PM - Dinner served in Fellowship Hall
- 6 PM - Worship in Sanctuary
- 6:40 PM - Church School, Confirmation, Youth Group

Thursday 12-5

- 6:30 PM - Re-Entry Meal in Fellowship Hall

Saturday 12-7

- 10 AM - Grief Support Group in Conference Room

Sunday 12-8

- 8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
- 9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
- 9:35 AM - Church School
- 10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary

Tuesday 12-10

- 9 AM - Quilters in Quilters' Room

Wednesday 12-11

- 2:30 PM - Upstairs Bible Study in Room 212
- 5:15 PM - Dinner served in Fellowship Hall
- 6 PM - Worship in Sanctuary
- 6:40 PM - Church School, Confirmation, Youth Group

