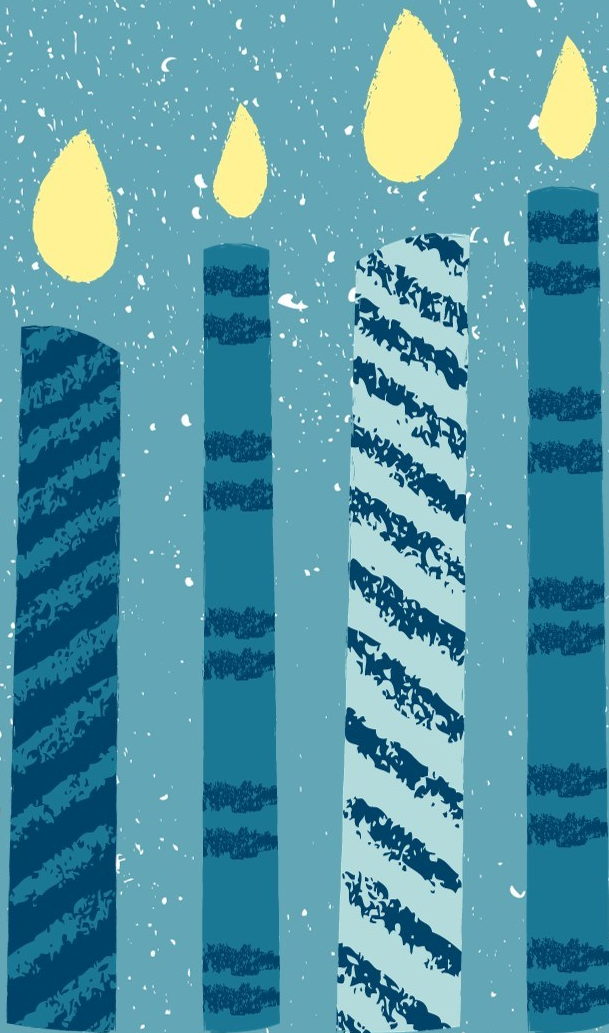


# Trinity Lutheran Church



December 17, 2023  
Last Sunday of Advent  
"Prince of Peace"

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN:

### *Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)*



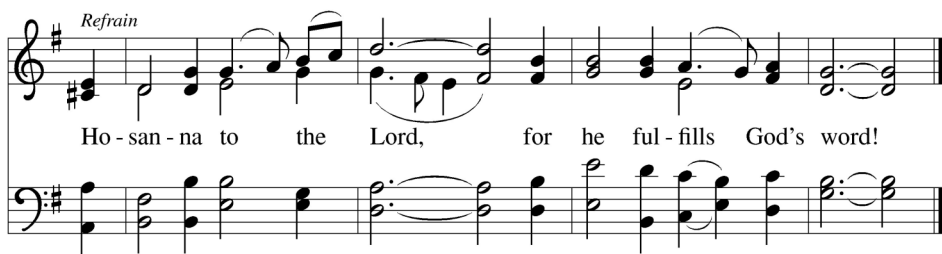
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ADVENT LITANY

So with the prophet Isaiah,  
we proclaim the promise of God:  
**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.**

## ADVENT PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING

As we light the Advent candles, we call upon Christ,  
Prince of Peace.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

**A voice that speaks for peace.**

Peace for all faithful people

**and those who turn to him in their hearts.**

God's help is near for those who fear him,

**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Peace on earth, and glory in the highest heaven!**

The Spirit and the church cry out:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

All those who await his appearance pray:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation pleads:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## ADVENT HYMN: *Christ Be Our Light* (ELW 715)

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

### *Refrain*

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit exalts in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with mercy on this lowly one.

And my name shall be forever exalted:  
for the Mighty God has done great things for me  
and his mercy endures from age to age,  
and holy, holy, holy is his name.

**for the Mighty God has done great things for me  
and his mercy endures from age to age,  
and holy, holy, holy is his name.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and filled the hungry with good things.

He has come to the aid of his servants,  
and remembered his promise of mercy:  
for the Mighty God has done great things for us  
and his mercy endures from age to age,  
and holy, holy, holy is his name.

**for the Mighty God has done great things for us  
and his mercy endures from age to age,  
and holy, holy, holy is his name.**

Holy, holy, holy is God's name.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY:

### *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## **APOSTLE’S 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 INTERCESSION**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

*As the lector closes each petition:*

Merciful God,

*The people respond:*

**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## OFFERING

*You may place offering in a passed plate, or in one of the Bulletin Stand offering plates at the end of worship as you leave the church.*

## OFFERTORY: Trinity Choir led by Larry Hazlett *Born to the World Is a Shepherd (Robert Leaf)*

*The night was cold, the wind was still,  
The stars shone down on the meadow.  
Oh, little lamb, lonely and cold, This night your shepherd must go.*

*Angels sent your shepherd away,  
Angels will stay to tend you.  
Born this night in Bethlehem town,  
Born to the world is a shepherd,  
Born to the world is a shepherd,  
Jesus has come as a shepherd to all.*

*The stars above were never so bright,  
Before the birth of the Savior.  
Oh little lamb, don't be afraid, Soon shall your shepherd return.*

*Angels sent your shepherd away,  
Angels will stay to tend you.  
Born this night in Bethlehem town,  
Born to the world is a shepherd,  
Born to the world is a shepherd,  
Jesus has come as a shepherd to all.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FOOD DRIVE BLESSING**

Let us pray with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

**Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMNS:

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)*

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# BLESSING

May God strengthen us to the end;  
Christ draw near to our very gates;  
and the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits;  
until, with eager longing,  
we greet the day of our † Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# Serving in Worship

**TODAY — Dec 17, 2023**

**Altar:** Conyers Family

**Readers:**

Martin Greller & Lisa Guarnieri

**Communion Assistant:**

Stuart Guarnieri

**Fellowship:** Kris Oolman

**CHRISTMAS EVE — 6:30PM**

**Altar:** Conyers Family

**Readers:**

Various


**Communion Assistant:**

OPEN

**Fellowship:** Merry Christmas!

## Trinity Happenings:

<b>Sun, Dec 17:</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Last Worship of Advent w/ Choir and Food Drive Blessing</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Sunday School behind Gruver Rm</b>
	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Fellowship in Gruver Rm</b>
Mon, Dec 18:	9:00am	NO <i>Becoming</i> in Gruver Rm
	5:00pm	NO Theology PUB
<b>Wed, Dec 20:</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>NO Women's Study</b>
Thu, Dec 21:	11:45am	NO MUGG Campus Meeting
<b>Sun, Dec 24:</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship w/ Band</b>
Mon, Dec 25:	9:00am	NO <i>Becoming</i>
	5:00pm	NO Theology PUB
<b>Wed, Dec 27:</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>NO Women's Study</b>
Thu, Dec 28:	11:45am	NO MUGG Campus Meeting
<b>Sun, Dec 31:</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Christmas Worship</b>
	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Fellowship in Gruver Rm</b>
Mon, Jan 1:	9:00am	NO <i>Becoming</i> in Gruver Rm
	5:00pm	NO Theology PUB
<b>Tue, Jan 2:</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Preaching Class</b>
Wed, Jan 3:	10:00pm	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
	6:00pm	Wednesday Supper in Gruver Rm
	6:30pm	Wednesday Worship in Gruver Rm
<b>Thu, Jan 4:</b>	<b>11:45am</b>	<b>NO MUGG Campus Meeting</b>
Sun, Jan 7:	9:00am	Epiphany Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm



*In 1223, desiring to make the experience of the Christmas story more tangible and accessible, St. Francis sought permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a live nativity. His intention? To eschew the rising materialism of the time and bring focus back to the simple and divine nature of the Christmas story. By using real animals and a manger in a cave setting, he created a physical representation of the events of that holy night.*

*The creche rapidly gained traction...[and] in all its forms, is more than just an ornamental display. It stands as a visual sermon reflecting the core of Christian belief that God became man to walk among us.*

*Annette Mikat  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
**The 800-Year Legacy of the Creche***

Merry Christmas!

Trinity Office Closed December 25th

# Cabinet Drive Thank You!

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas  
from all of us at Wyoming Hunger Initiative.

Thank you for all you  
do to help those in need  
in your community!

Jennie Gordon

WYOMING HUNGER INITIATIVE

5001 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82009 • (307) 777-7398



@firstladywyoming



@jennie.gordon2019



nohungerwyo.org



@jenniegordon

## CHEERS TO

MARGOT BIRKHOZ

Embarking on her 50th  
year at Trinity, 25th year  
of polishing our silver!

# 50 YEARS

DROP HER A LINE!

1612 Ord Street  
Laramie, WY  
82070

**QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING?** If you ever have any questions about your financial gifts to Trinity, please contact Trinity's financial secretary, Alison Shaver, at [alebada@uwyo.edu](mailto:alebada@uwyo.edu). If you need an up-to-date statement of giving, please contact the church office.

### 2023 Year-To-Date as of October 31

**Income** - \$187,999.37

**Expenses** - \$191,559.33



## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th + Laramie, WY 82070 + [www.telclaramie.com](http://www.telclaramie.com)

**Office:** (307) 745-4222 + [telcoffice manager@gmail.com](mailto:telcoffice manager@gmail.com)

**Pastor Nate:** (307) 231-5371 + [pastornate3421@gmail.com](mailto:pastornate3421@gmail.com)

*Congregation President* ..... **Brett Moline**  
*Pastor* ..... **Nathan Keith**  
*Accompanist* ..... **Soyeon Kang**  
*Financial Director* ..... **Linda Lebeda**  
*Financial Secretary* ..... **Alison Shaver**  
*In the Office* ..... **Lisa Guarnieri**