

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN:

Once in Royal David's City (ELW 269)



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us together confess our sin.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.

We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In \pm Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)



- 1 It came up on the mid night clear, that glo rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low, 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."

A - bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing. oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing! and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

PSALM: Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created, ⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever,

giving them a law that shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON

SERMON HYMN:



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 INTERCESSION

Eternal God, in the midst of strife and warfare, may your peace may be known throughout the world.

Light of the world, shine in our lives.

As your church announces the good news of salvation, may we share the gift of Christ in prayer and action.

Light of the world, shine in our lives.

In sickness, suffering, and need, may your healing love dispel all darkness.

Light of the world, shine in our lives.

As all creation shouts with joy, may we care for earth, sea, and sky in reverence of you.

Light of the world, shine in our lives.

In all of our beginnings and in our endings, may we be one with you eternally.

Light of the world, shine in our lives.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

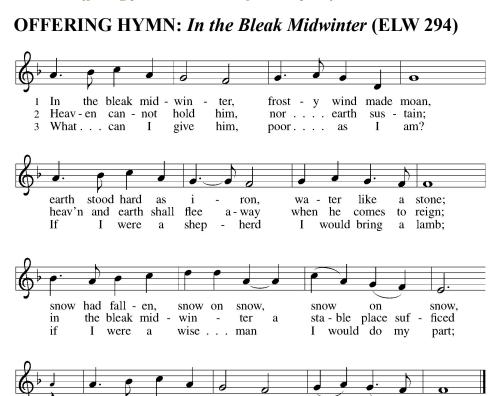
And also with you.

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..



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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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,

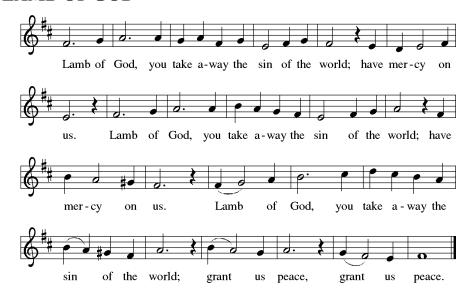
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

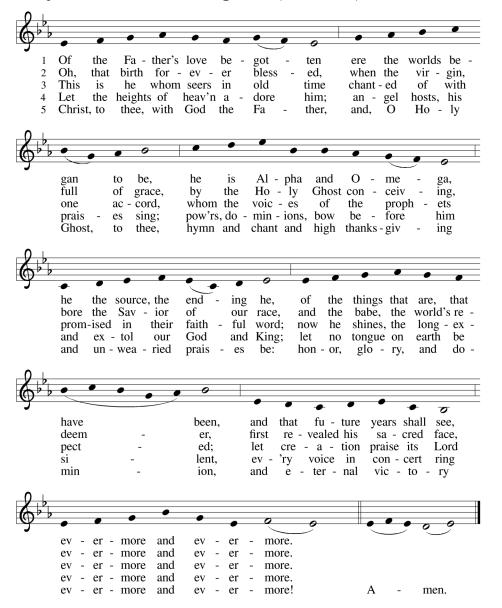
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW 295)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,

→ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Joy to the World (ELW 267)



DISMISSAL

Mon. Jan 1:

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Dec 31: 9:00am Christmas Worship

9:00am

10:15am Fellowship in Gruver Rm

NO Becoming in Gruver Rm



Mon, Jun 1.	5:00pm	NO Theology PUB
Tue, Jan 2:	7:00pm	Preaching Class in Gruver Rm
Wed, Jan 3:	10:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm	Women's Study in Gruver Rm Wednesday Supper in Gruver Rm Wednesday Worship in Gruver Rm
Thu, Jan 4:	11:45am	NO MUGG Campus Meeting
Sun, Jan 7:	9:00am 10:15am	Worship Service Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Jan 8:	9:00am 5:00pm	Becoming in Gruver Rm Theology PUB @ Coal Creek Downtown
Tue, Jan 9:	7:00pm	Church Council in Gruver Rm
Wed, Jan 10:	10:00am	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
Thu, Jan 11:	11:45am	NO MUGG Campus Meeting
Sun, Jan 14:	9:00am 10:15am	Worship Service Fellowship in Gruver Rm

Serving in Worship

<u>TODAY — Dec 31, 2023</u>

Altar: Conyers Family Readers: Diane Fiedler Communion Assistant:

OPEN

Fellowship: OPEN

Next Sunday — Jan 7, 2024

Altar: OPEN Reader: OPEN

Communion Assistant:

OPEN
Fellowship: OPEN

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

2023 Year-To-Date as of November 30

Income - \$187,999.37 **Expenses** - \$191,559.33



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