



Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church

*Christmas  
Worship*

December 31,  
2023

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN:

### *Once in Royal David's City (ELW 269)*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



# 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 ✚ 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,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
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

<sup>7</sup>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."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The 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

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
 you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,**  
**old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
 heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The 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

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a  
 woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under  
 the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because  
 you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
 crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So 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 - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When 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 <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now 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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided 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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then 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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There 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, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At 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.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The 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:

### *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288)*

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



## **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..*

## OFFERING HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (ELW 294)



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus - Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## **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.**

## **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 HYMN:

## *Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW 295)*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

## 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)

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

# DISMISSAL

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

## Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Dec 31:	9:00am	Christmas Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm



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

# Serving in Worship

**TODAY — Dec 31, 2023**

**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](mailto: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



## 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**