

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET  
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019  
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG  
DECEMBER 1, 2024 ADVENT I



Night landscape, staring at Milky Way galaxy (acrylic) by Valery Rybakou. Copyright © 2024 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

## PRELUDE

*Veni Emmanuel*

David Schelat

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

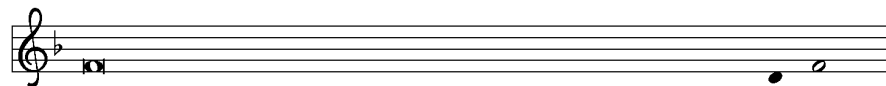
## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

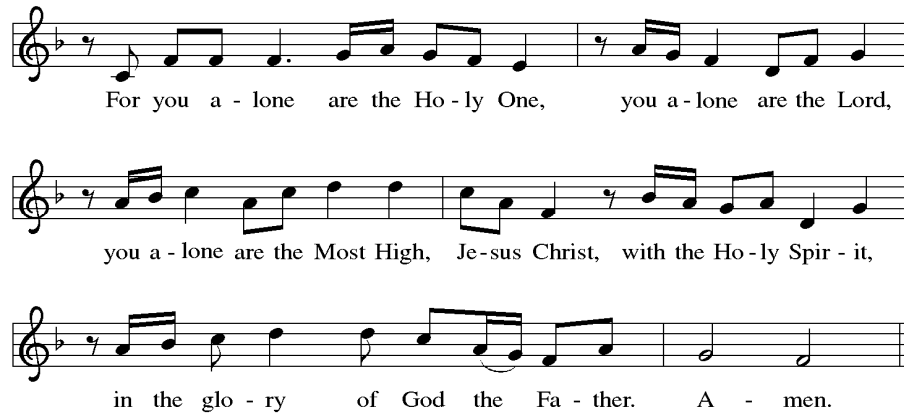
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*continued*



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pam Reichert

*One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**



Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
 He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

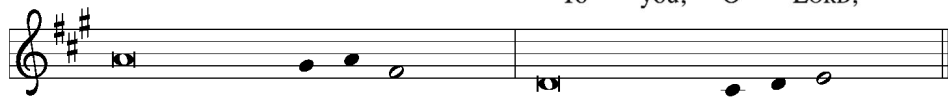
Sue Teal

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10



<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

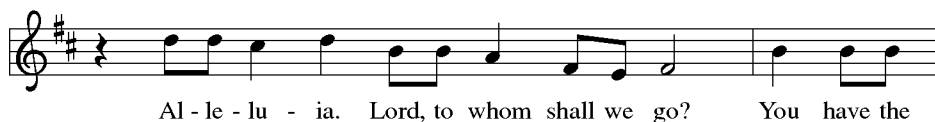
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “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. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

<sup>34</sup> “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, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> 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.**

## SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

ELW 436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: “Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

*continued*

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or

suffering especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Dan, Michael, Monica, Barbara and those we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Until Jesus Comes* Dean McIntyre

Trinity Choir

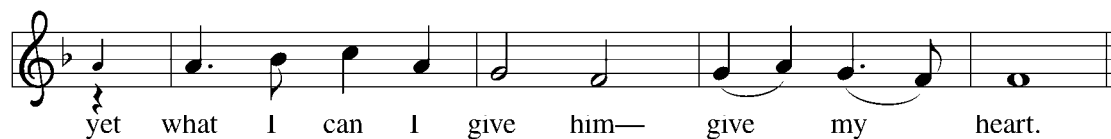
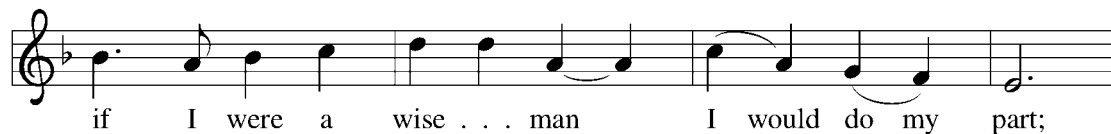


*Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.*

## OFFERING PRESENTATION *vs. 3*

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

ELW 294





## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

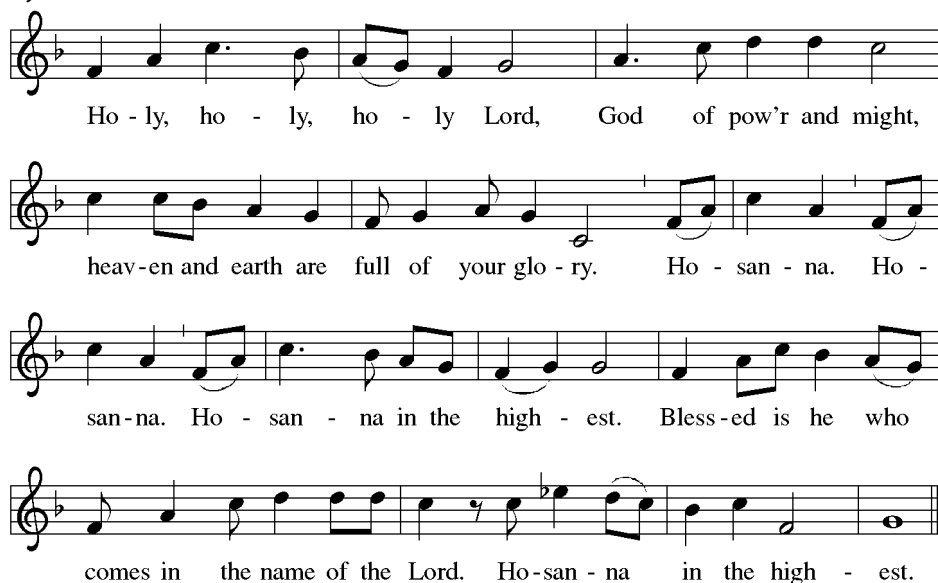
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness  
of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh  
in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges  
those at home and says: "Take and eat. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you." Then you may  
partake.*

## COMMUNION SONG

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.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

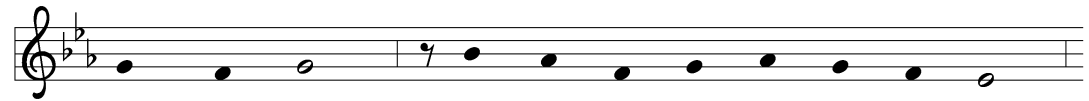
Text: John Helgen, b. 1957  
 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen  
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

ELW 245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*The King Shall Come*

ELW 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Henry Balcombe

# TRENDING @ TRINITY



The Angel Tree is up in the Narthex. Each angel has suggestions for a gift or gifts for children in the community who have been identified by the school system as part of a family who might not be able to provide their own gifts at Christmas. Please take as many angels as you would like, being certain that you sign them out on the list next to the tree. Gifts are to be returned, wrapped with the identification information found on the angel on each gift. Gifts need to be returned by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Member Needed** Please consider offering your talent and time as a member of Trinity's Congregation Council. Council members have general oversight of the life and activities of our congregation and meet once a month to provide that leadership. While the salary is minimal (nothing), the benefit package of faith, satisfaction and camaraderie is outstanding!

**NEXT SUNDAY following worship with be Trinity's annual meeting.** New Council members will be elected, as well as a new Trustee, and the budget will be presented and voted on. Your presence is most important as the church plans for the upcoming year. Currently nominee for Trustee is Tom Righter. There are three council openings, but only two name at this time: Patty Stringer and Tom Righter. (see announcement above.) *There will also be a brief overview of the council's meeting with Bishop Milton regarding the next steps after Pastor's retirement.*

Tonight, Trinity begins a series of evening concerts and Holden Evening Prayer for Advent. There will be a string quartet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Glenn Caluda on classical guitar on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a bassoon trio the 15<sup>th</sup> and a clarinet/flute duet on the 22.



This Saturday is Trinity's Kringle Market. 9AM-3PM. Please tell your friends and neighbors to stop by for some Christmas cheer and shopping. There will be crafts, baked goods and much more. Those willing to provide baked goods speak to Deb Wickboldt or Hilda Painter.

**Christmas poinsettias** will adorn the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve worship services (4PM & 11PM). Place your order today then you may take your plant home after the 11PM service or the following Sunday. Deadline for placing an order is next Sunday.

The Shenandoah Valley Orchestra will present a concert here at Trinity on Tuesday, December 10. All events begin at 7PM. Spread the word as these are free and open to the community.

As of October 31, 2024 donor giving at Trinity is down \$11,000.00. Please keep this in mind as you plan your year-end giving to the church. All donations must be to the church no later than Dec. 29 in order to be recorded for your 2024 tax statement.

Calling all women of Trinity! The LCW and Sewing for the Savior would like to extend an invitation to all the ladies of the church to come to our Christmas luncheon. It will be on Tuesday, December 10th at noon at Cafe Del Sol. This restaurant is located at 50 Featherbed Lane in Winchester. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Pam Reichert (540-327-3520) or Deb Wickboldt (614-477-2430) by Friday, December 6th. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Advent devotional booklets and calendars are available in the Narthex. Pick one up today and begin your Advent journey at home.

At the holidays, there is one Community Meal for Nov/Dec. This year the meal will be **this Wednesday**. This will be a holiday meal with turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans and dessert. Check the bulletin board in the parish hall for the sign-up lists to provide food and your time.

Food pantry donation request for December: syrup. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away, also no personal hygiene or other products unless specifically asked for; no opened products of any kind (this includes unopened items that are in an opened multipack).

**Zoom to Worship**, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

**Facebook Live:** you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

This week: Greeter: Maxine Rogers; Advent Wreath: Pam Reichert; Reader: Sue Teal;  
Comm. Asst.: David Reichert

Next week: Greeter & Comm. Asst.: Deb Wickboldt; Advent Wreath: Kim & Brandon Hampton; Reader: Bruce Everly