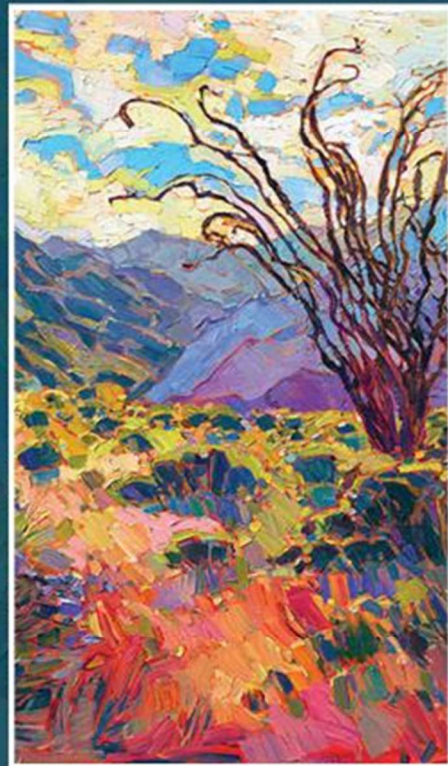


Third Sunday of Advent

The
desert shall
rejoice
and
blossom

ISAIAH 35:1



810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA
Sunday Worship, 9:30AM
(540) 869-4019
December 14, 2025



TRINITYLUTHERAN
CHURCH OF STEPHENS CITY VIRGINIA

*The Chancel Flowers are given today by David & Pam Reichert
in appreciation and love for their church family.*

Please Consider Donating Chancel Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Consider donating **chancel flowers** for a Sunday service.

Flower donations are a beautiful way to:

- Honor or remember someone special
- Celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Add beauty to our worship space

If you'd like to donate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the **flower calendar** in the church Narthex or contact Martha Cooley.

You're welcome to take the flowers home after the service, or they can be delivered to someone in need of encouragement.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681

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 Weeks; Greeter: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Marcie Stern.
Communion Assistant: Barry Hockenberry. Lighting & Reading of the Advent
Wreath: Kathy & Jacob Carroll

Next Weeks; Greeters: Diann Dailey. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Roger Wickboldt.
Communion Assistant: Deb Wickboldt. Lighting & Reading of the Advent Wreath:
Brandon Hampton & Kim Begnaud-Hampton.

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WELCOME

We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please Stand

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

**Almighty God,
you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty handed.
You who called forth light,
forgive our preference for the dark.
You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.
You who sent your Son to redeem your people,
forgive our comfort with the captivity we find ourselves in.
We love you for your tender mercy and
ask you to send your Spirit, once more, into our midst
and into our hearts, to make us new.
In Jesus 'precious name we ask,
Amen.**

Our living and gracious God hears our cry, receives our confession, and grants us his forgiveness. As a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, through the self-giving sacrifice of our Lord on the cross, I 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.

GATHERING SONG

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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three candles are lit, as prayer is spoken.

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows,

and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience,

trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer

with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

He Came Down

(ELW 253) V.4 only

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracket. The lyrics are: 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace; 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have joy; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

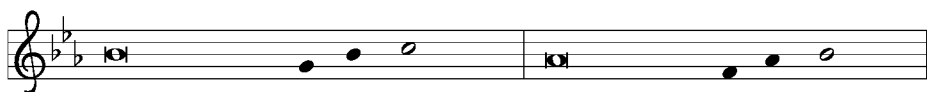
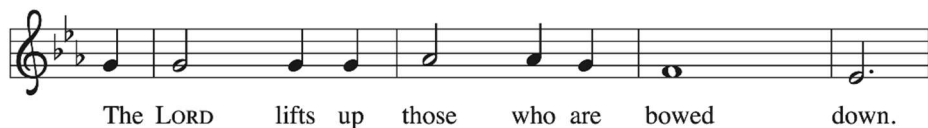
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10



- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹ LORD their God;
- ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ¹ is in them;**
who keeps promis- ¹ es forever;
- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ¹ captive free.
- ⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down;**
the LORD ¹ loves the righteous. R
- ⁹ The LORD cares ¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ **The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹ Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

A reading from James.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

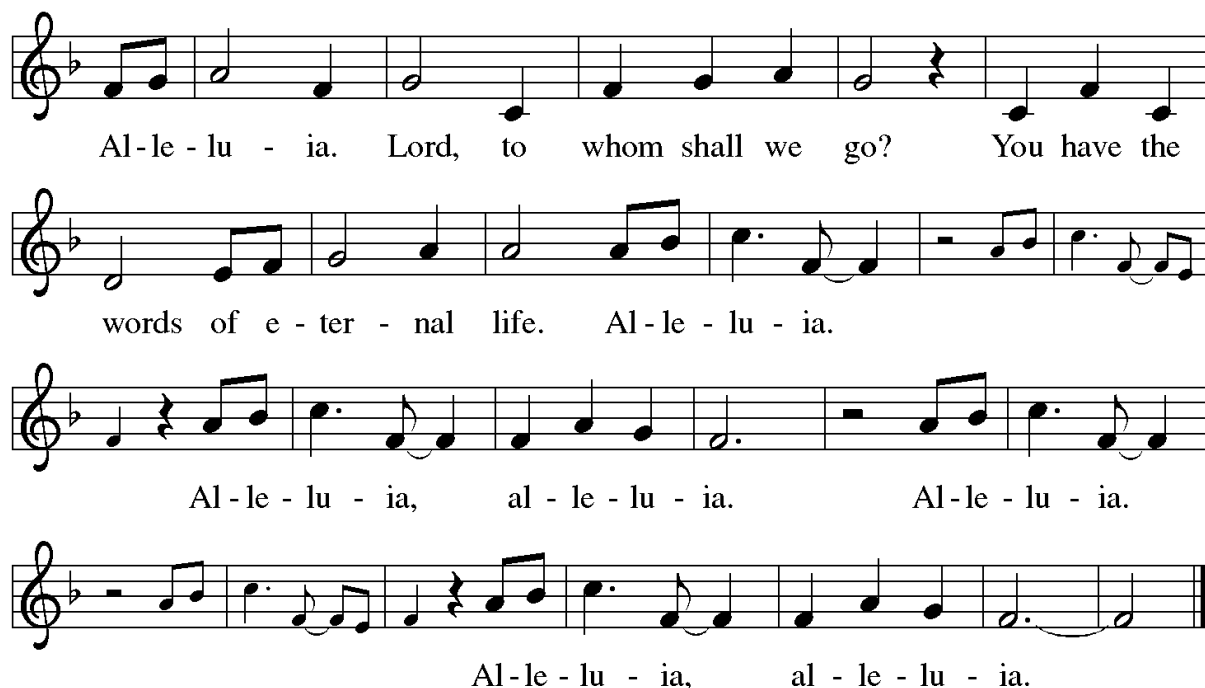
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p.188)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

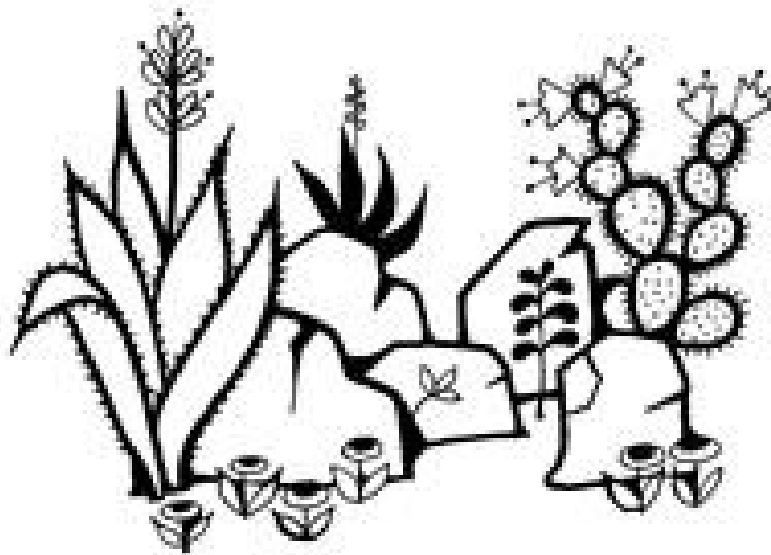
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

REV. LARRY CLOSTER



Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)



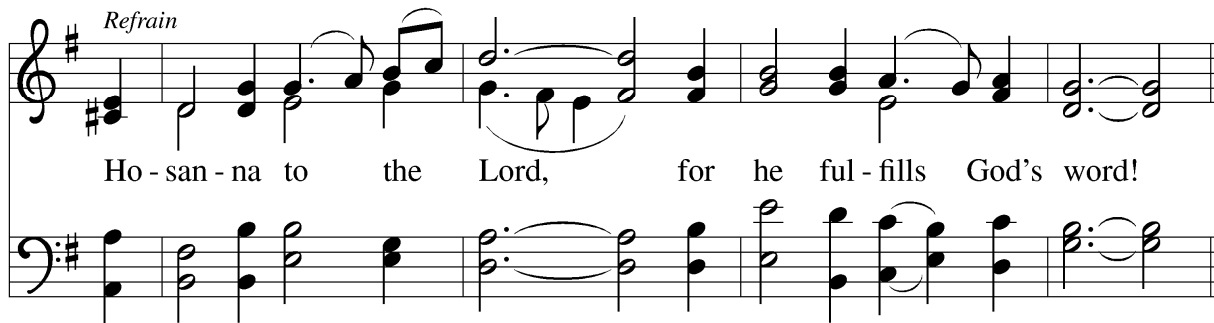
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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!

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 INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff (**worshippers may add names silently or aloud**). In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

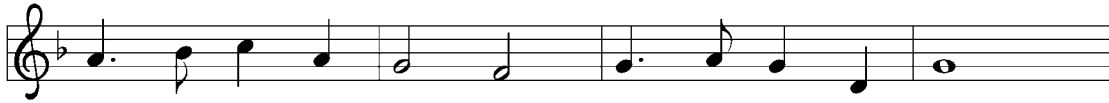
OFFERING*Prepare the Way for the Lord*

LeDoux

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.

*Please stand***OFFERING PRESENTATION***In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294) V.3*

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.

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 with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, 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

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

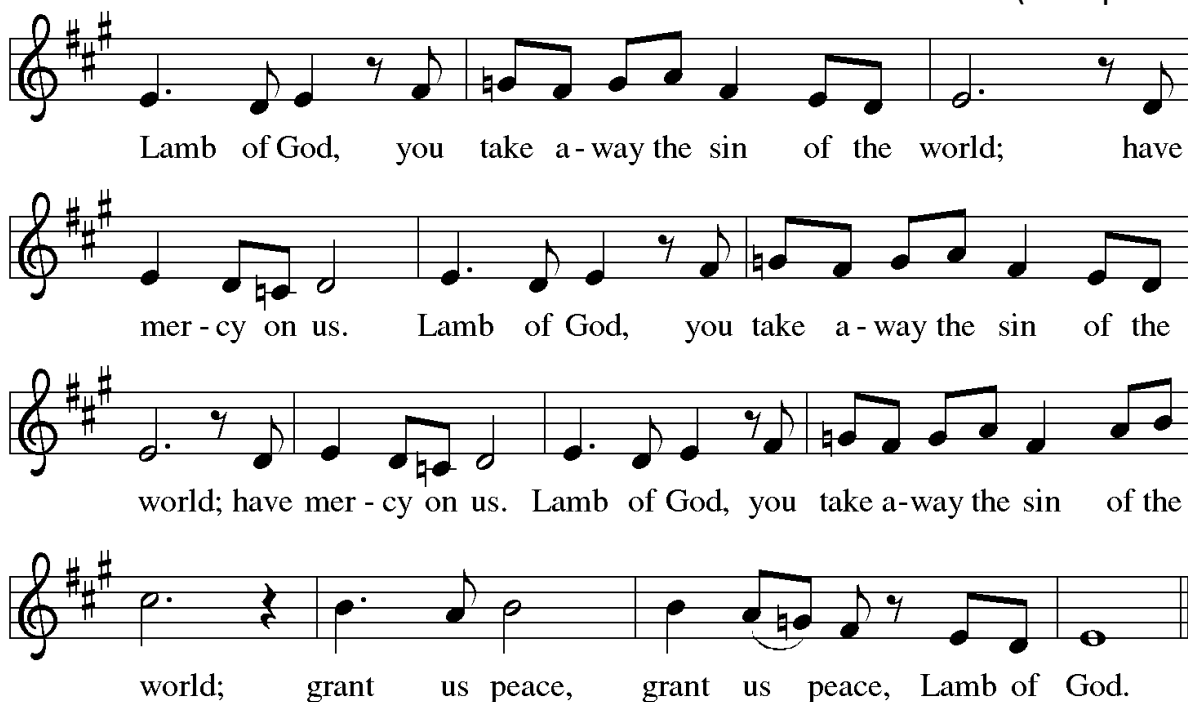
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.

COMMUNION SONG

(ELW p. 191)

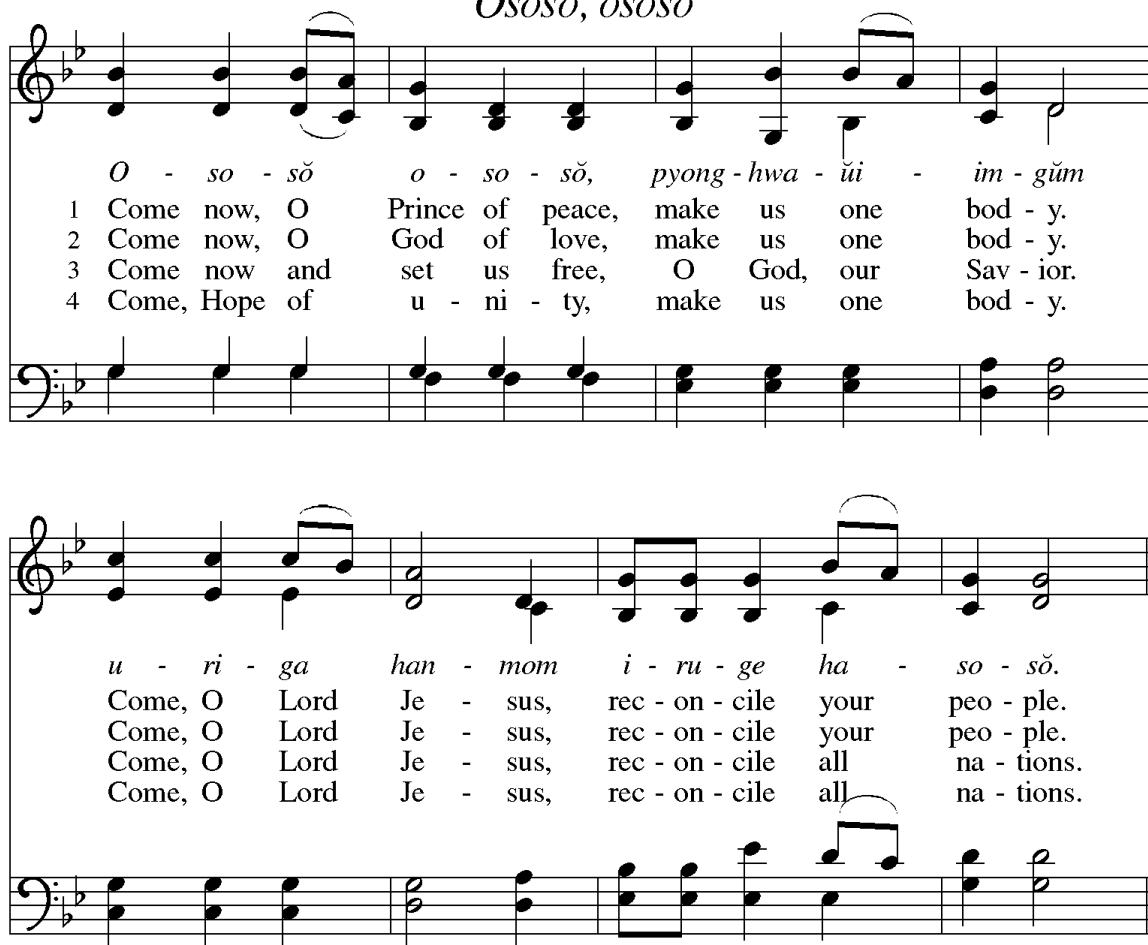


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

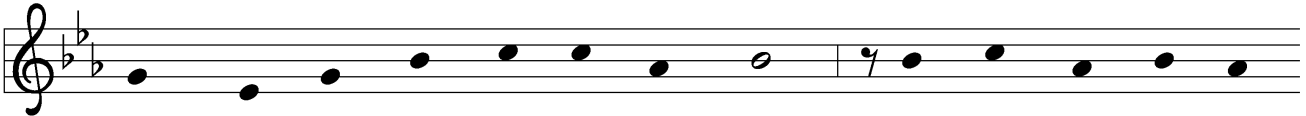
SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)

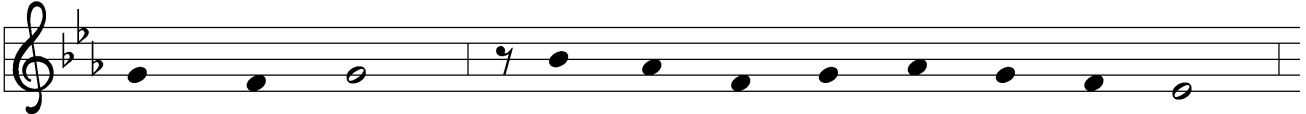
Ososŏ, ososŏ



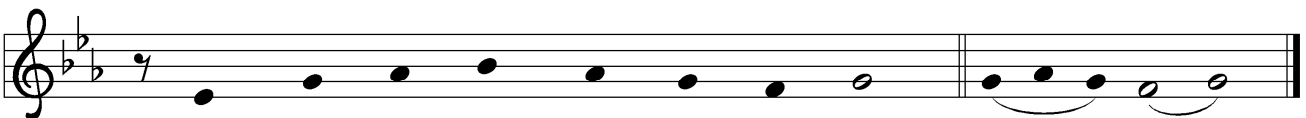
O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.
u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.



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.

Please stand

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.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, ✠Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

People, Look East

(ELW 248)

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as the sun and the moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers







David Christensen (b.1950)

~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community news

IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

** Holiday Food Box Distribution will take place all week | Parish Hall*

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY *Here's what's happening at a glance:*

-  **Monday, December 15** – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | piano, Room 203 & violin, Sanctuary
-  **Wednesday, December 17**
 - Midweek Advent Worship @ 5:30 PM | Come As You Are
 - A peaceful time of reflection, hope, and preparation during this holy season.
-  **Friday, December 19**
 - Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
 - CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203
-  **Saturday, December 20**
 -  Angel Tree Gifts & Christmas Food Box Distribution
@ 9am-12PM | Parish Hall
-  **Sunday, December 21** – 4th Advent - *Service* @ 9:30 AM
 - Noisy Offering this month will go to WATTS, for more information visit <https://watts-homelessshelter.org/>
 - Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!
 - Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
 - Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday Servants** 🙌

We'd love your help in making each Sunday special. Whether you'd like to greet, read, assist with Communion, or take part in special services like lighting the Advent Wreath—there's a place for you!

Reach out to **Christine Cornwell** or sign up through **SignUpGenius** in the newsletter.

- 🙏 **Prayer Team Table**

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Lorrie Closter 540-840-8401**, to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession.

- 🏠 **Hospital Visitation**

Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted.

To request a visit, contact the church office at **540-869-4019**, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at **540-848-5325**. You may also reach out to **Pastor Closter** or **Martha Cooley**.

- 🎵 **Choir Rehearsals** - Normal Thursday Rehearsals will resume **September 4th** @ 5:45 PM 🎵

- 🎵 **Chime Choir** – Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director – music@trinitychurchvirginia.org

- **Food Pantry Item of the Month: Pancake syrup** | Contact: Kim Begnaud-Hampton– kbegnaud0101@yahoo.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Sewing for the Savior Ministry Team:

We are delighted to share what God has done through our hands this year. Our ministry of hand-stitching quilts has continued throughout the year for many different occasions—birthdays, celebrations, and especially for those in need. Most importantly, this year we were blessed to deliver **11 handmade quilts** to Wellspring, with love and prayer for each recipient. May these quilts provide comfort, warmth, and a tangible reminder of God's care and our community's support.

Thank you to all our stitchers who committed time and love into every stitch, and to everyone who continues to pray for and support our efforts.

With gratitude,

The Sewing for the Savior Ministry Team



From the Social Outreach Ministry Team:

A Heartfelt Thank-You

A sincere thank-you to everyone who stepped in at the last minute to help with the Stephens City Tree Lighting and the Middletown Christmas Parade. Your willingness to show up, serve, and represent Trinity made a meaningful impact. The Mayor of Stephens City expressed personal gratitude, sharing how much it meant to the community for Trinity to be part of something so special.

During the parade, as Pastor and Patty handed out flyers listing local food pantries and community refrigerators, many people asked for extra copies—a clear reminder of the growing needs in our area and the importance of continuing to show up with compassion and hope.

Thank you for your hearts, your hands, and your readiness to serve. Trinity shines because of you.

 ***Angel Tree – has now transformed!***

The Angel Tree is now The Tree of Warmth... Please consider helping us decorate our tree this year with warm fuzzy hats, gloves, hand warmers, socks, and scarves. These items will **now** be donated to the **Sinclair Health Clinic** <https://www.sinclairhealthclinic.org/> after the New Year.

 **Angel Tree Gifts & Christmas Food Box Distribution**

Thank you to everyone who adopted an angel and continues to support our Holiday Food Box ministry. Your generosity brings joy, dignity, and hope to families in our community.

Angel Tree Gifts

Please return all Angel Tree gifts by **Saturday, December 14**. Gifts may be dropped off in the **parlor** or the **Pastor's office** during office hours.

Food Box Preparation

From **December 15–19**, the **Parish Hall** will serve as our command center as we prepare the Christmas food boxes.

Distribution Day

On **Saturday, December 20 from 9 AM–12 Noon**, we will distribute the **food boxes** and **Angel Tree gifts** to families.

Each Christmas food box includes a holiday meal and a selection of pantry staples to extend support:

Soups, 12-pack ramen noodles, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, cereal, cake or cookie mix, dry beans, peas, corn, and green beans.

These items are collected all year long through our monthly themes and joined by generous support from our partner churches and community organizations:

Grace United Methodist Church, Relief United Methodist Church, Middletown Presbyterian Church, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Ridings Chapel Methodist Church, Stephens City Mennonite Church, Stephens City United Methodist Church, Valley Assembly of God Church,

*Love in Action, and the St. Lucy Food Project—along with many generous friends from the community at large. We are **deeply grateful** for every donation, every volunteer, and every helping hand that makes this ministry possible. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christ's love this Christmas season.*

SAVE THE DATE

<div> <div>< ></div> <div>This Month</div> <div>December 2025</div> </div>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30 Angel Tree 9:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Bible Study	1 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	2 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Congregational Council Meeting	3 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Community Meal	4 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 am - 11:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	6 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Kringle Market
7 Angel Tree 9:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Bible Study	8 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	9 9:30 am - 9:45 am Sewing for the Savior 11:30 am - 12:30 pm [Redacted] 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert	10 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Services	11 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00 am - 11:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	13
14 Angel Tree 9:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship – Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting Parish Hall	15 Holiday Food Box Prep & Assembly 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	16	17 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Services	18 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 am - 11:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	20 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Christmas Food Box and Gifts Distribution
21 9:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Bible Study	22 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	23 [Redacted]	24 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 11:00 pm - 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25 Office Closed- Christmas 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm [Redacted]	26 10:00 am - 11:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	27
28 9:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Bible Study	29 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	30	31	1 [Redacted]	2 10:00 am - 11:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Music School of the Piedmont	3

Stay in the Loop!

Want to receive our **weekly Trinity Times Newsletter** by email?



Fill out a welcome card (basket in the Narthex) with your name and email, and we'll add you to the list.

Prefer print? Pick up a copy **next to the name tag table in the Narthex**, or call the office to request a mailed version:



540-869-4019 | Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM–1 PM