



December 29, 2024



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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service, we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Today's Focus: Jesus lowers himself to lift us up to God. Our worship follows an expanded version of *Morning Praise*.

We Come into the Presence of God

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

STAND

MORNING HYMN



1 Fa - ther, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, Ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; Ban - ish our
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you. Sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing. Bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion. Yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; Thus we a - dore you.
where your saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: Unto us the Christ is born: let us worship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a greatking a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are".

C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of
our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a
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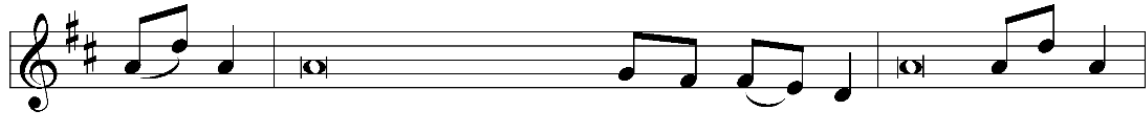
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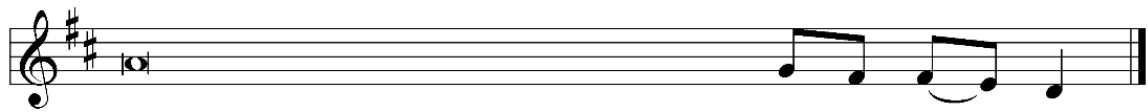
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9

Isaiah proclaims the Messiah's perfect faithfulness, through every trouble and hardship, to the Lord's will. At the same time, the Lord strengthens the Suffering Servant to carry his work through to completion.

The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,
so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

⁵The LORD God opened my ear,
and I myself was not rebellious.

I did not turn back.

⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.
I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

⁷The LORD God will help me,
so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

⁸The one who will acquit me is near!

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Who can accuse me?
Let us take our stand.
Who can pass judgment on me?
Let him approach me.
⁹Look, the LORD God will help me.
Who then can declare me guilty?
Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.
A moth will consume them.

PSALM: 111

Praise the LORD.
I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.
²Great are the deeds of the LORD.
They are studied by all who delight in them.
³Glorious and majestic is his work,
and his righteousness stands forever.
⁴He has set up a memorial to his wonders.
Gracious and compassionate is the LORD.
⁵He gives food to those who fear him.
He remembers his covenant forever.
⁶He has declared the power of his deeds to his people,
to give them the nations as their possession.
⁷The works of his hands are truth and justice.
All his precepts are trustworthy,
⁸steadfast forever and ever,
done in truth and uprightness.
⁹He sent redemption for his people.
He commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.
All who do his precepts have good understanding.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.
Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³ And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵ and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷ For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

M: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Even in his youth, Jesus maintains perfect obedience to his heavenly Father and earthly parents. It is a life of perfect obedience lived for our sake, to make us holy before God.

Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³ When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

(Continued on Next Page)

⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father’s business?” ⁵⁰ They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹ He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S SERMON: You’re Perfect!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 41, Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

SERMON

Text: Hebrews 2:10-18

Theme: Jesus is Born to Be Your Savior and Brother

STAND

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD



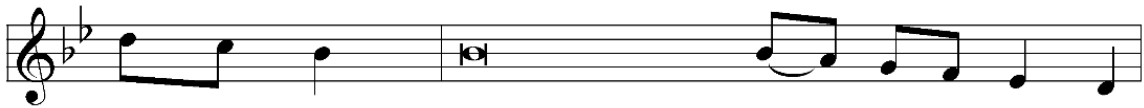
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



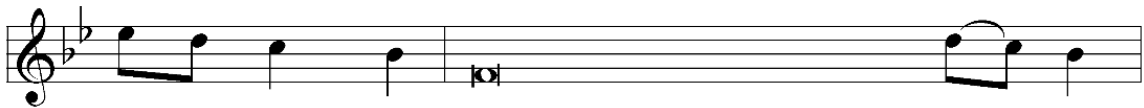
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



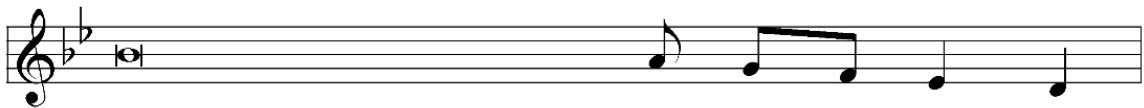
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,

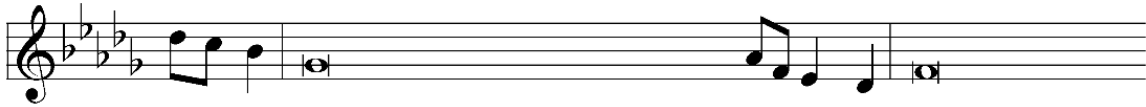
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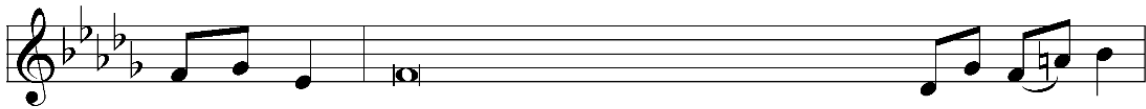
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to fill in the Friendship Register in the pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

STAND

LORD HAVE MERCY

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name forever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: It is fitting, Lord, in the final days of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: Increase our faithfulness to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Special prayers

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word, that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to depart this world in your peace.

C: We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we bring this old year to its close, and in his name we begin the new. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 47, Behold, a Branch is Growing, verses 1 and 5



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of
5 O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y, Who



love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -
felt our hu - man woes, O Sav - ior, King of



know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And
glo - ry, Who con - quered all our foes, Bring



bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est
us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
heav - en And to the end - less day.

Text: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org, (703) 615-9320

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Women's Bible Study - January 11

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll be discussing chapter four of "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – on Break until January 16

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Trinity's Book Club – January 18

Trinity's Book club will meet at 9:30am on Saturday, January 18, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. Please join us to discuss *An Hour Unspent* by Roseanna M. White and to choose our next read! New members are always welcome.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Christmas is the perfect time to be God's child

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20231227/>

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4,5

Christmas can sometimes feel like it comes at the worst time. Students can be worn out from tests and all the activities. Depending on where you live, you might have to drive through bad weather to get to church or visit your family over the holidays. Parents can get really stressed out too. Sometimes getting together with other family members reminds us of hurts and problems that divide us. And we're supposed to be filled with good news of great joy? It seems like the worst time for it.

It must have seemed that way to Jesus' mother Mary, too. Put yourself in her shoes. God caused her to be pregnant with Jesus before she was married. Wow, talk about bad timing! And now, when it was almost time for her to give birth, the government said everyone had to travel to their hometown. That meant a ninety-mile trip for a very pregnant woman, walking or riding on a donkey. And when she went into labor, there wasn't a hotel for her to stay in, just a barn. It seemed like the worst time!

It can seem that way to us, but God reminds us that his timing is perfect. God chose just the right time for his Son to be born. The nation of Israel was in rough shape, but that meant there were people who were looking to God for an answer. The Roman government controlling Israel was cruel, but God was planning on using them to put Jesus to death to win salvation. It all happened at a time when there were finally roads connecting the empire so the good news could be spread quickly. God's timing was just right.

And it still is. Maybe it's hard to focus on Jesus at Christmas. All the extra busyness can cause problems and fights. Or maybe it's just something going on with you that makes you feel like not hearing God's Word. Maybe you struggle with doubt; maybe you feel very angry or hurt by someone.

That makes it the perfect time to hear what God has done for you. Problems are real—Mary and Joseph faced them. But God promises you that he's adopted you as his child. That means he loves you, he forgives you, and he wants you to pray to him about your problems. You're not alone; God's there to help.

In the times when it seems everything's going wrong, it's the perfect time to know that God has made you his child.

Questions to Consider

Name two things you know your parents will do for you because you're their child.

God says you're his child now, too. What are two things God will do for you?

Why is it sometimes hard to focus on Jesus at Christmastime?

What are some things that you can do with your family to keep your focus on Jesus?

Share a time when you didn't feel "ready" for someone to remind you about something the Bible says. Why might that have actually been the perfect time?

List a problem or challenge that you'd like your family to pray about for you. Your Father in heaven is listening!

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.