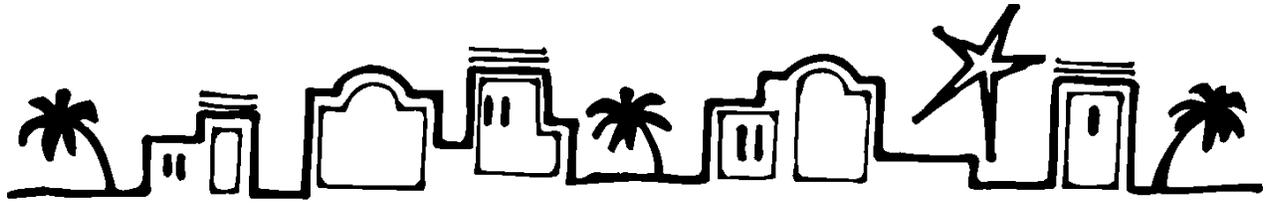




First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025



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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.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Pastor David Sternhagen

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.

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: Behold the King comes; let us worship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



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 great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



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 2:1-5

This is the message that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² This will take place in the latter days:
The mountain of the Lord's house will be established
as the chief of the mountains.

It will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it like a river.

³ Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob.

Then he will instruct us about his ways,
and we will walk in his paths."

For from Zion the law^[a] will go out,
and the Lord's word will go out from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations,
and he will mediate for many peoples.

Then they will beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into blades for trimming vines.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
nor will they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come,
and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

PSALM: 18

Read Responsively

M: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

C: My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

M: He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

C: He rescued me from my powerful enemy.

M: He brought me out into a spacious place;

C: He rescued me because he delighted in me.

M: You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning;

C: My God turns my darkness into light.

M: You save the humble

C: But bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

M: You give me your shield of victory,

C: And your right hand sustains me.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

STAND

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. ³⁸ In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the very day that Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ And they did not realize what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.

⁴⁰ “At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (*Revelation 22:20*)

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: 2 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n all - throned!
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SERMON

Text: Matthew 24:36-44

Theme: Here I Come, Ready or Not

STAND

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD



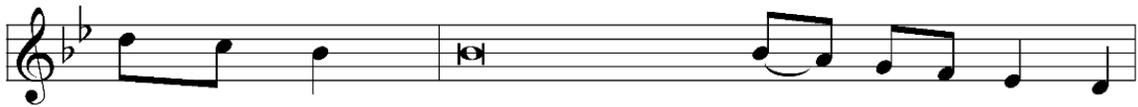
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



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



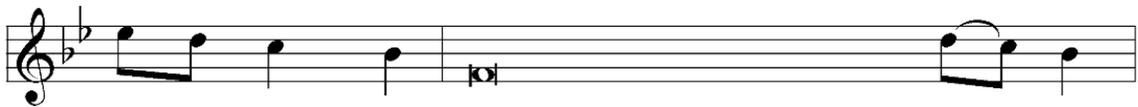
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



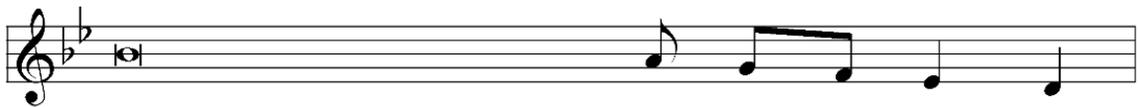
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



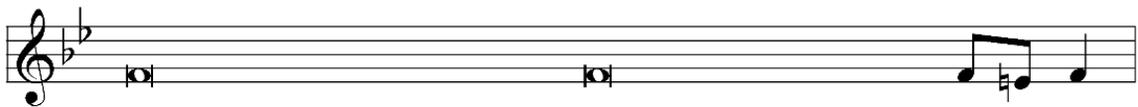
The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



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,

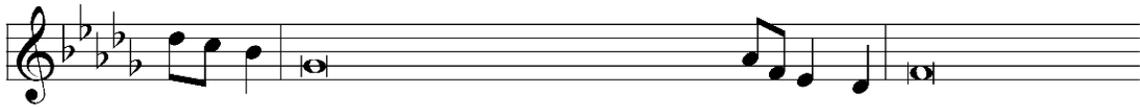
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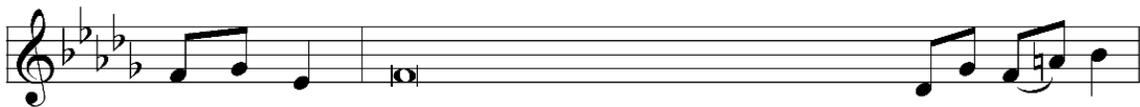
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



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.**

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 OF THE DAY

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: 1 The Advent of Our King



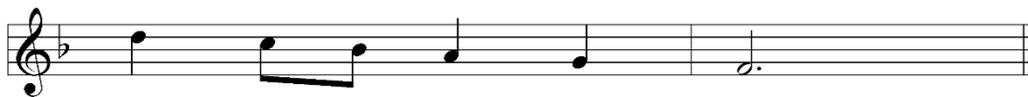
1 The ad - vent of our King Our
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -
3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing Day Let



prayers must now em - ploy,
car - nate deigns to be,
meet your low - ly King,
soon will come a gain
sin's dark deeds be gone,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To
Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The
And his true mem - bers all u - nite With
The sin - ful self be put a - way, The



strains of ho - ly joy.
set his ser - vants free.
peace he comes to bring.
him in heav'n to reign.
new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.
Tune: ST. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731-76.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Pastor David Sternhagen: ecadave@gmail.com

Advent and Christmas Worship Information

Brief devotions will follow our midweek Advent suppers on December 3, 10, and 17. The suppers start at 6 (doors open about 5:30), and are potlucks. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided. The Children's Christmas Worship Service will be during the 11:00 service on December 16. The 8:30 service on that Sunday will be a normal service. Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship is at 10:00.

Bethlehem Lutheran's Advent by Candlelight 2025 – Ladies, Register here!

Ladies - Here is the link to our online registration for this year's Advent by Candlelight event to be held Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. <https://forms.gle/aV6KXWp4fsn1iDU56>

Our theme this year is 'Christmas begins with Christ!' and promises to be an inspiring and nourishing evening of fellowship and sisterhood as we kick off the Advent season.

God bless your week! *Lynnette Hupman (703-615-0755)*

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:45am The next series is "your Questions; Scripture's Answers", based on the book by Prof. John Brug. We'll start out with how God gave us His Bible, look at a few puzzling parts of the Bible, then go into adiaphora (if you don't know, you need to come), and a few other questions.

Wine and Word Bible Study – December 4th

The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of EXODUS** and 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. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine (or other drink of choice) 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.

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 Steven Douglas. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



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 Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's 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 Bev Ohlendorf know.

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 ecadave@gmail.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Heaven Is Better Than Ice Cream

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20251117/>

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. Malachi 4:1-2

Tears ran down Jeremy’s red, messy face as he slammed the back door and ran across the yard. There was a little hiding spot between the shed and the fence, and he squeezed inside, curling up tight and hugging his knees. Jeremy was scared. His dad had asked him to clean up the living room before Grandma and Grandpa came over, but Jeremy didn’t want to. When his dad asked again, Jeremy exploded. He shouted that he was sick of doing chores and even called his dad mean names he knew he shouldn’t have said.

Now, sitting behind the shed, Jeremy felt awful. His stomach hurt—not from food, but from guilt. He knew he had done wrong. He knew he should have listened and obeyed. And he knew he deserved to be punished.

While Jeremy was thinking about how long he’d probably be grounded—no video games, no dessert—he heard footsteps crunching on the grass. His dad peeked into the small space and sat down next to him.

Jeremy turned his tear-streaked face toward his dad. “I’m sorry, Dad,” he whispered. He braced himself, waiting to hear the punishment. But instead, his dad wrapped him in a big, strong hug. “I forgive you,” his dad said softly. “I already cleaned the living room for you. Now come inside—your grandparents are here, and we have ice cream.”

Wow. Jeremy deserved punishment, but he got love instead.

That’s just like what God does for us! We do bad things too—we disobey, we say mean words, and we don’t always love others the way God wants us to. We deserve punishment for our sins—yes, even to be separated from God forever. Malachi described it as a day that sets us on fire. How awful!

But, instead of punishing us, God forgives us. “The sun of righteousness will shine with healing in its rays.” Jesus took our punishment when he died on the cross. Because of him, God hugs us instead of punishing us. He gives us forgiveness, love, and forever life in heaven—which is way better than ice cream!

Questions to Consider:

What do we get from God instead of punishment? (Hint: Romans 6:23)

What are some of your favorite things—ice cream flavors, games, or places? Why is heaven even better than all of those?

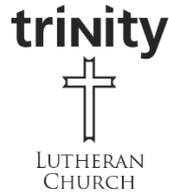
Have you ever committed a sin too big for God to forgive? (Hint: 1 John 1:9)

How does knowing God forgives you make you feel?

If God forgives our sins and promises us heaven, why do we still sometimes get punished here on Earth?

Since God forgives us, how does he want us to treat people who hurt or upset us? (Hint: Ephesians 4:32)

It is the mission of



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.