



**December 7, 2025**

## **An Explanation of Our Communion Practice**

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





## Second Sunday in Advent

**December 7, 2025**

**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:** Rev. Gary Wong

# WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

## MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

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

## OPENING HYMN: 47 Behold a Branch is Growing (Verses 1 & 2)



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In  
love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -  
words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -  
know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And  
fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through  
bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est  
God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is  
win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.  
giv - en At mid - night calm and still.

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

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

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

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

Congregation: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



**C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



**We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,**



**we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,**



**God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;**



**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the**



**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of  
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;  
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Stir up Our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

# THE WORD

## FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

### Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the Lord.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord,  
as the waters cover the sea.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: 130

*READ RESPONSIVELY*

M: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

**C: O Lord, hear my voice.**

M: Let your ears be attentive

**C: To my cry for mercy.**

M: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**C: O Lord, who could stand?**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

M: But with you there is forgiveness;

**C: Therefore you are feared.**

M: I wait for the Lord and in his Word I put my hope.

**C: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

M: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

**C: For with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

**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 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup> And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup> He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. *(Luke 3:4,6 cf. NIV)*

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 3:1-12**

M: The Gospel of St Matthew, chapter 3.

#### **C: Glory be to you, O Lord!**

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” <sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

#### **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **NICENE 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*Be Seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 16 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.  
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

## SERMON

Text: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

Theme: **“Jesus, Our Righteous Branch, Rules with Justice”**

*Stand*

## CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

*Be Seated*

### OFFERING

*Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your 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*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C:** We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

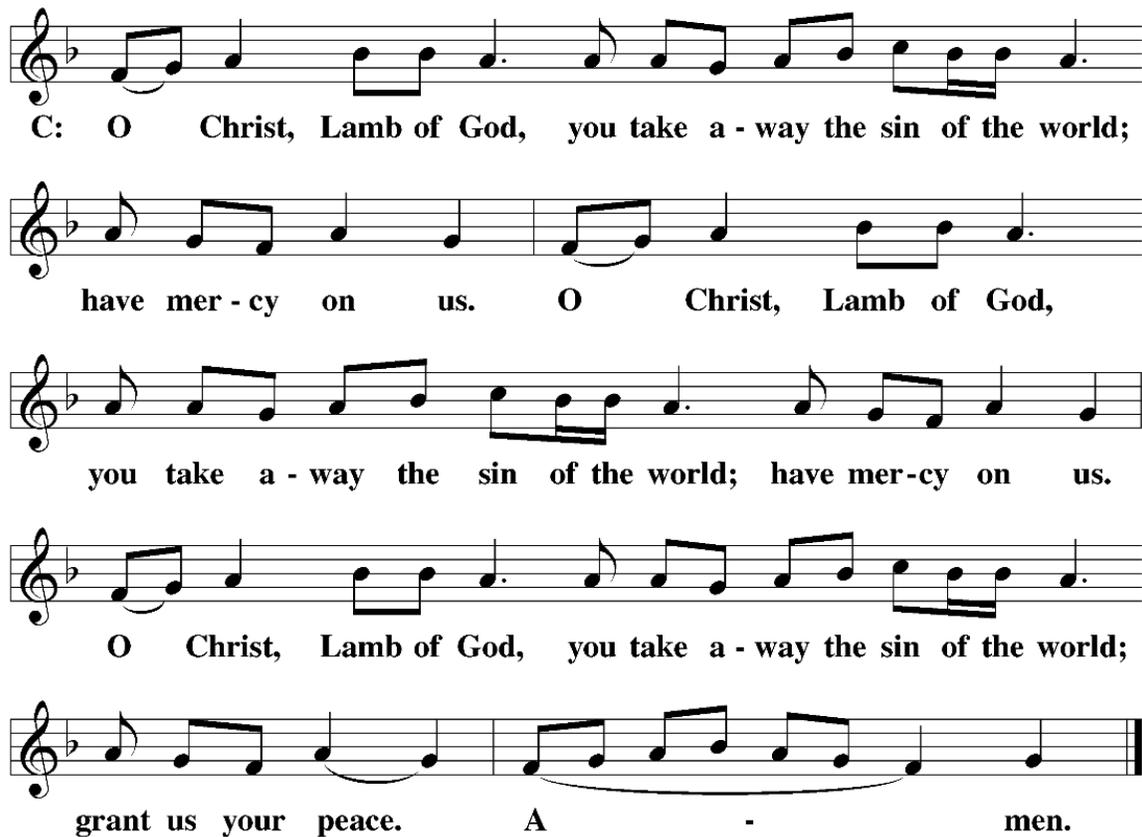
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be Seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

## HYMN: 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I  
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in  
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,  
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly  
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

*Stand*

## SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*Be Seated*

CLOSING HYMN: 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving (Verses 1, 12 & 3)



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, For  
 2 All praise for John the Bap - tist, Fore -  
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
 run - ner of the Word, Our true E - li - jah,  
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You  
 mak - ing A high - way for the Lord. The  
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they  
 last and great - est proph - et, He saw  
 all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand



might wear the crown And ev - er shine in  
 the dawn - ing ray Of light that grows in  
 be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and



splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.  
 splen - dor Un - til the per - fect day.  
 glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio B. Nelson, 1823–1913, st. 1-4, 6-27, alt.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 5.  
 St. 1-4, 6-27. From *The Hymnal 1982*. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used by  
 permission of Church Publishing Inc., New York, NY.  
 St. 5 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

# Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA  
Find us online at [www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org](http://www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)  
Pastor Rev. Gary Wong: [revgwong@gmail.com](mailto:revgwong@gmail.com)

## Advent and Christmas Worship Information

Brief devotions will follow our midweek Advent suppers on December 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 14. 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.

## Warm in Woodbridge Supply Drive

Trinity's Sunday School kids are holding their annual "Warm in Woodbridge" drive to collect items for the homeless people of Woodbridge. They have set up a large collection bin in the narthex where you can place your donations. This year, the warm items particularly needed are socks, gloves/mittens, hats, scarves, and blankets. New and gently used coats are also welcome. Hygiene items needed right now are toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, chapstick, and bath wipes or baby wipes. This collection ends on Sunday, December 14. All items will be distributed by the H.U.G.S. organization.

**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 – On Break until Jan. 15th

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [revgwong@gmail.com](mailto:revgwong@gmail.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



## Worth the Wait

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20251124/>

**The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Then the LORD replied: the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness. Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4 (selected verses)**

Christmas is such a fun time of year! Christmas Day is especially exciting—opening presents, celebrating Jesus’ birth, and being together with family. For many kids, the day after Christmas starts the countdown: “Only 364 days until Christmas again!” A year feels like forever, but we wait because Christmas is just that awesome.

In our Bible reading today, the Lord says, “Wait for it . . . it will certainly come and not delay.” But he’s not talking about Christmas. He’s talking about something even better! God is telling us to wait for Jesus’ final coming—the day when Jesus comes back to take everyone who believes in him to heaven. That day will come. Jesus promises it “will not delay”—he won’t forget! But when will it happen? When do we get to be in heaven with Jesus forever, with no sin, no sadness, no sickness?

Living in our sinful world can be really hard sometimes. We get sick. We feel sad, mad, or lonely. We mess up and feel guilty. Friends can be unkind. Sometimes people even make fun of us because we believe in God.

But what we’re waiting for is totally worth it!

Heaven will be better than anything we’ve ever waited for—better than birthdays, vacations, or even Christmas morning. Because Jesus died and rose for us, we know for sure we’re going there. Every day—at school, at home, everywhere—we can remember God has something coming for us. And he keeps his promises. It will come. It will not delay.

So whenever life feels tough or unfair, believers can take a deep breath and remember: Heaven is real. Jesus is coming back. And it will be worth the wait.

## Questions to Consider

What is something you want to ask God for help with this week? (Feelings, school, friendships, habits—anything!)

What do you think will be the BEST part of being in heaven with God one day? (No wrong answers—imagination welcome!)

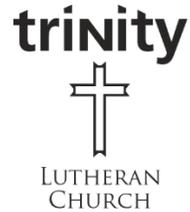
What are some ways we can stay faithful and close to Jesus until the Last Day? (Examples: praying, reading the Bible, worship, kindness, saying sorry, trusting God.)

We don't know exactly when Jesus is coming back. Why isn't that scary for us? (Hint: Because Jesus loves us, stays with us, and keeps his promises.)

Why do you think God doesn't tell us the exact day he will come again? (To help us trust him, stay ready, and live every day for him.)

The Bible says Jesus' coming "will not delay," but it has been almost 2,000 years! How can that still be true? (Because God's timing is perfect. He doesn't forget. And he always does what he says—right on time.)

**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.