

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TRINITY

**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5:00 PM

NOVEMBER 29,
2025

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
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Dir. of Music

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Trinity Lutheran Church - First Sunday of Advent

3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640

November 29, 2025, 5:00 pm

PRELUDE

Charly Sly, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The night is far gone, and the day is drawing near.

The world waits in shadow, but light is rising on the horizon.

We come to watch for the dawn.

We come to walk in the light of the Lord.

God's vision still calls to us—

a world where swords are shaped into plowshares,

and fear is turned into friendship.

We long for that day.

We open our hearts to the Prince of Peace.

Keep awake, beloved ones! Christ is coming—not in thunder or terror, but in qui-

et grace, in steady love, in

the small and certain light of Advent.

We will stay awake.

We will watch and wait.

We will walk in the light of hope.

Come, people of God—let us worship the one who is our dawn,

our peace, our promised day.

May the God of promise stir your hearts from slumber,
may the Christ of peace guide your steps in the way of love,
and may the Spirit of hope keep your eyes lifted toward the rising light.

Go forth as children of the day—

ready, radiant, and alive with expectation.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the ✠ Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #439

Verse 1

Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King

Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King

Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King

Hallelujah hallelujah

We're going to see the King

Verse 2

No more crying there

We are going to see the King

No more crying there

We are going to see the King

No more crying there

We are going to see the King

Hallelujah hallelujah

We're going to see the King

Verse 3

No more dying there

We are going to see the King

No more dying there

We are going to see the King

No more dying there

We are going to see the King

Hallelujah hallelujah

We're going to see the King

Verse 1

Ending

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Andraé Crouch

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Come, Now, O God



1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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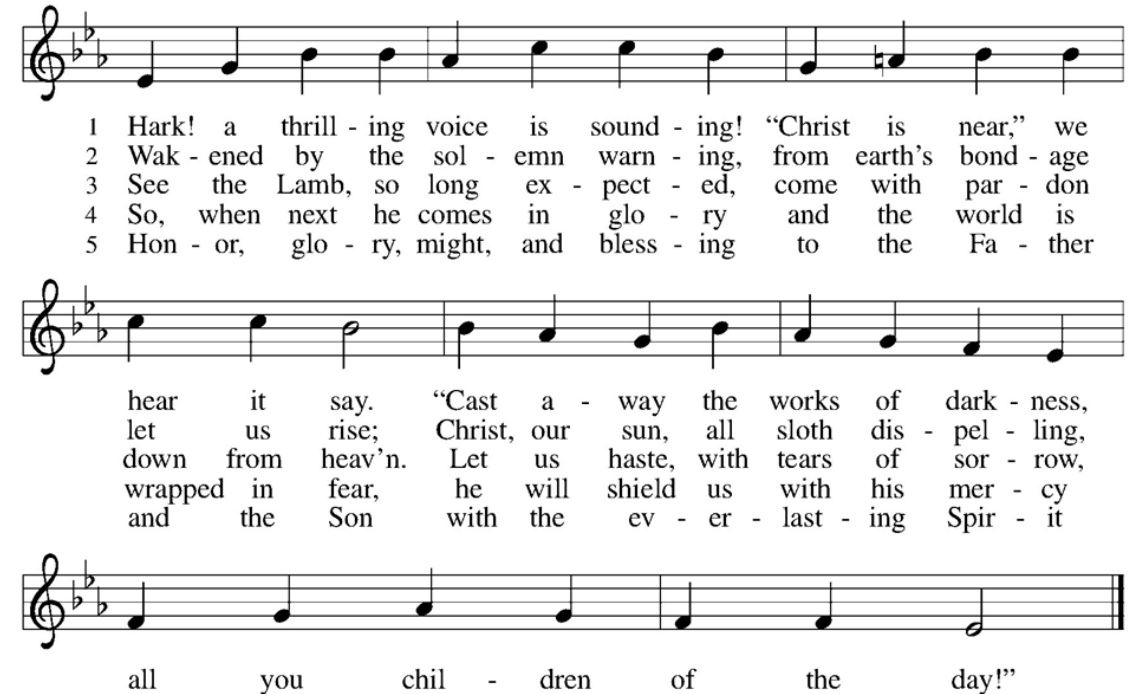
BENEDICTION

Go now into the waiting world—
 awake and unafraid,
 for the dawn is breaking and the light of Christ is near.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther

hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it

all shines you chil - dren of the day!"
 one up - on the morn - ing skies.
 and with all, to be for - giv'n;
 while un - end - ing love draw near.
 run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the dawning day, you break into our darkness with the promise of light.
 Awaken us from our sleep, and open our eyes to the hope that rises with you. In a
 world restless with fear and conflict, teach us to walk in your ways of peace—to
 shape compassion from anger and faith from weariness. Keep us watchful, not with
 worry, but with wonder and trust, ready to welcome Christ whenever and howev-
 er he comes. Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our light. **Amen.**



CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

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The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

LAMB OF GOD

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ELW #241

OFFERTORY

Candles of Advent

Don Besig
True Spirit Singers

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and giving God, in this season of waiting and wonder, we bring these gifts before you—tokens of our gratitude, symbols of our hope. As you once came to dwell among us in love, come now and dwell in what we offer: in our hands, our hearts, our time, and our treasure. Transform these offerings into light for those who wait in darkness, bread for those who hunger, and welcome for those who long to belong. Through Jesus, the Light of the World, we pray. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
“May they prosper who love you.
⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,**
I pray for your prosperity.
⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Page 124

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Page 21

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



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



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



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



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

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



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The night is far gone; the day is near. Christ is coming—not to catch us in fear, but to wake us to life. Let us confess our sin before the God who calls us to walk in the light.

Silence for reflection

**God of the dawning light,
we confess that we have grown drowsy with comfort and distraction.
We have built our lives around what fades
and ignored what endures.
You call us to watch, but we slept through your summons.
You call us to walk in your light,
but we have chosen our own paths and stumbled in the dark.
Forgive us, awaken us,
and teach us to live as people of the day—
expectant, courageous, and full of hope in you.**

People of God, hear this good news:
The dawn has already begun. Christ comes with mercy, not judgment—to rouse us, renew us, and set our feet on the path of peace. In the name of the one who is coming and is already here—your sins are forgiven, your hearts are awakened, and your lives are made new.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

