



TRADITIONAL SERVICE
December 21, 2025 - 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM Matins
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson. Pastor Jonathan Chapa is our Liturgist and Ken Van De Zande will be assisting as the Lector. Eileen Hass is our organist.

OPENING HYMN **“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”** LSB 334 vs. 1-4 (tune LSB 442)

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| <p>1. <i>O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright? Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms; And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms. My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me. A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me. Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.</i></p> |
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Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Text: Public domain

VERSICLES

- A O Lord, open my lips,
C **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- A Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C **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. Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

PSALMODY

- A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

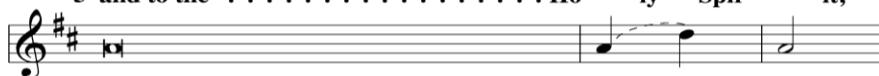
VENITE



C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,



5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.



5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

LSB 221

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 vs. 1-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



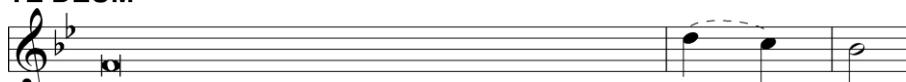
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

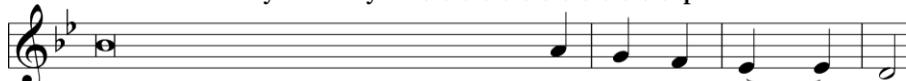
SERMON

TE DEUM

LSB 223



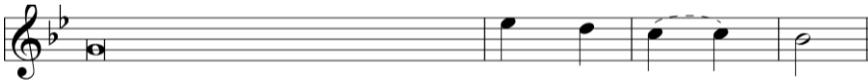
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



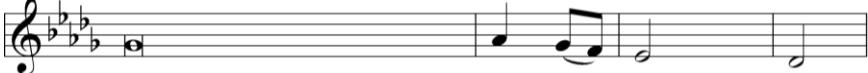
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
 6 We believe that You will come



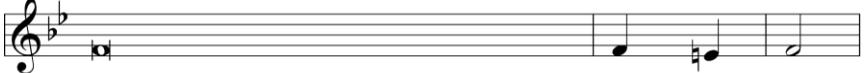
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be our judge.



7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING *During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. (When filling out the attendance book, please include your last names and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

COLLECT

A O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

A O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

A Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION LSB 228

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

LSB 357 vs. 5-7



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's radio broadcast in loving memory of Madison Seeger & Lu Benzinger by Shawn & Laurie Schultz & family

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of David Teske & Alvin Steffenhagen by Dawn Teske and family.

Have you purchased Scrip for the Holidays?

Scrip are available at all Worship Services and in the Church Office. Buy yours before the ones you want are gone!! They make great gifts and stocking stuffers.

Church Office Holiday Hours

Please purchase your scrip and handle any church office needs before the Christmas holiday. The church office will be closed on December 24th and December 25th to celebrate the Christmas holiday with our families. We will also be closed January 1st for the New Year Holiday. The church staff wishes you and your family a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

2026 Church Offering Envelopes should be here at anytime! Please keep your eyes on the weekly bulletin so you know when to pick up your envelopes from downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to find them, please call the church office. Reminder: Do not use them until 2026. Thank You.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

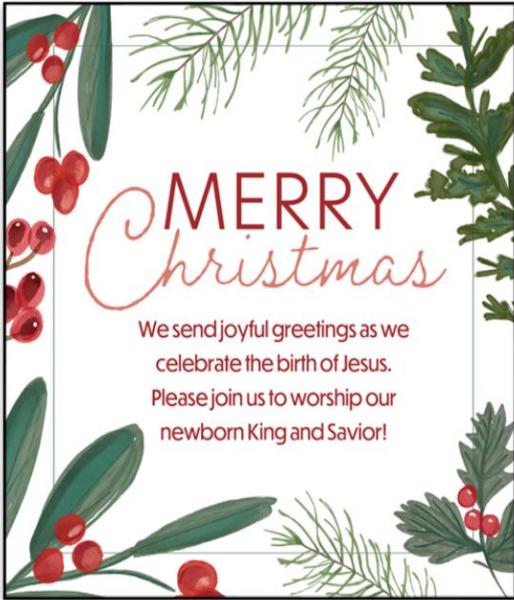
**Christmas Eve Contemporary Candlelight
3:00pm Service**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight 5:00pm or
7:00pm Service**

**Christmas Day Traditional 9:30am
Service w/ communion**

Our 3:00pm & 5:00pm Christmas Eve services and our 9:30 am Christmas Day will be livestreamed on Facebook. Our 5:00pm service and our 9:30am Christmas Day service will be broadcast live on the radio on WJMT.

**New Year's Eve Service 6:00 PM with
Communion.**



RIGHT NOW MEDIA -We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** taught by leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an email invitation for **FREE** access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.) Or Contact the Church office to receive an email invitation.

Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, 2026

The meal will feature 10 varieties of chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EX-TREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 5 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available.

Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.

Free Meal at
Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill, WI
from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Free on Christmas Day. Free

2-piece Baked Chicken
Dinner with
mashed potatoes & gravy,
vegetable, stuffing, and
coffee for the
first 300 people.

Dine in only
Brought to you by:

CARRY THE CROSS CO. **S** **CALDWELL BROS. ACTION** **Pine Ridge Restaurant**
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