



### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

292 Orange St., New Haven, CT

TrinityLutheranNH.org – (203) 787-6521

Service of Holy Communion—*Lutheran Book of Worship*, Setting II

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

In-Person at 10:15 a.m. & Live at Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranNH

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** *"Fling Wide the Door"* **LBW No. 32****APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**ADVENT LITANY:** *"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"* **LBW. No. 34, vs. 5****FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. This king will restore Israel and bring peace, a prophecy of the coming of Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: "Magnificat" LBW Pgs. 147-8**

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

<sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers his promises, lifts up the lowly, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"* **LBW No. 180**

## **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY READING**

## **SERMON**

### **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;**  
**by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**  
**and was made man.**

**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.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic 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**

### **THE PRAYERS**

D: In our prayers today and this week, please remember: [prayer list]. We also invite your own petitions either aloud or silently in your hearts.

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, look with favor on your Church, and come and save us. Fill your Church with your Holy Spirit, that the Good News of your Son may reach and redeem all people. Bless our children who have shared good tidings of great joy with us today. Give to all your people compassion and mercy this season, that many hearts might leap with joy at the coming of the Savior. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with favor upon your world, and come and save us. Cast down the haughty from places of power, and raise up those who rejoice in doing your will. Fill every heart with humility and compassion, so that the poor and hungry may be filled with good things. Watch over those who serve and protect others this season. And remember your promise of mercy, establishing your peace among all nations, communities, and families upon the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all your children, and come and save us. Restore all who are afflicted by pain, grief, fear, or despair, and let the light of your face shine upon them. We especially pray for those who have asked for our prayers, and for those we remember before you now. Remove the cup of tears from their lips, and remember them according to your promise of mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who have died trusting in your promises, and come and save us. Let the light of your face that shines on them forever also shine on us. And grant that as we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, we too may be filled with heavenly joy and peace, until that day when with Mary, Elizabeth, and all the saints we sing our praises in the light of your face forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING** *The ushers collect the offering. You can also give electronically through our website, Facebook page, or by [clicking here](#).*

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "Come, Redeemer" Luigi-Maria Cherubini

**OFFERTORY:** "What Shall I Render"

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Merciful Father,

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING****HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER****LORD'S PRAYER****LAMB OF GOD**

**THE COMMUNION** *To all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord, are baptized, and confess Jesus' real presence in the Holy Communion, we invite you to join us in the Holy Eucharist. At the usher's invitation you may come forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail. Please take an empty individual cup from the tray and bring it with you to the rail. The host wafer will be placed into your open hands to eat. Your cup will be filled from the pouring chalice, take and drink. Individual cups filled with non-alcoholic grape juice are also available, please point to receive one. Sealed pre-consecrated Communion packages are also available. Please remain at the altar rail until all have finished and a blessing is given.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS: WOV (Blue) No. 634, LBW No. 205**

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** "Create in Me"

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** *"People, Look East"* **WOV (Blue) No. 626**

**DISMISSAL**

D: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**