

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

www.trinityjerseycity.com

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: 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.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

C: Amen

*† Advent Intro “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” LBW 34

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

Shall come to you O Israel!

*2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height.*

In ancient times once gave the law.

In cloud, and majesty, and awe (refrain)

*3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse free,
your own from Satan's tyranny,
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (refrain)*

*4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring come and cheer
Our spirits by your Advent here,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight (refrain)*

***† Entrance Hymn: "In the Sanctuary"**

We lift our hands in the sanctuary

We lift our hands to give You the glory

We lift our hands to give You the praise

And we will praise You for the rest of our days

(Yes) yes, we will praise You for the rest of our day

We clap our hands in the sanctuary

We clap our hands to give You the glory

*We clap our hands to give You the praise
And we will praise You for the rest of our days
(Yes) yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days*

*We sing our song to give You the glory
We sing our song to give You the praise
And we will praise You for the rest of our days
(Yes) yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days*

*Jesus, we give You the praise,
Emmanuel, lift up your name (Heavenly Father)
Heavenly Father, (coming Messiah) coming Messiah
And we will praise You for the rest of our days
(Yes) yes, will praise You for the rest of our days*

*Hallelujah in the sanctuary,
Hallelujah, we give You the glory
Hallelujah, we give You the praise
And we will praise You for the rest of our days
(Yes) yes, we will praise You for the rest of our days*

***† Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***† Kyrie**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy,

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

C: Amen

***† Hymn of Praise**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

***† Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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 Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

† **Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; refrain, Ps. 80:7**

Refrain: Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
- ³ Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R
- ⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

† **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ 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 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st Chapter

C: Glory to you, Glory to you, Glory to you, O Lord

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, Praise be to you, Praise be to you, O Christ

† Youth Choir Anthem: “Light of the World”

† Adult Choir Anthem: “Lord, Help Me to Hold Out”

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: “Emmanuel”

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called, Emmanuel*

*God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called; Emmanuel*

(Repeat ALL)

~ Prayer ~

*† The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.*
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***† Prayers of the People**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service.
Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held
in your in love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy
through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

***† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***† Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, 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.**

~ Meal ~

***† The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***† Words of Institution**

***† Lord's Prayer**

**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**

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: "Open Our Eyes Lord" TFBF 98

*We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him*

And say that we love Him.

*Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus.*

*Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.*

*Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus*

***† Post Communion Blessing**

(After all have returned to their places:)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

***† Post Communion Canticle**

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory 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.

***† Post Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **C: Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

***† Benediction**

***† Hymn: "Let the Church Say Amen"**

*Let the Church say amen. Let the church say amen.
God has spoken. Let the church say amen. (REPEAT)
Leader: Make this your response... ... (Amen) 8X
God has spoken.
Let the church say amen.
Let the Church say amen. Let the church say amen.
God has spoken. Let the church say amen. (REPEAT)
Leader: I need you to say... ... (Amen) 8X
God has spoken.
Let the church say amen.
Let the Church say amen. Let the church say amen.
God has spoken. Let the church say amen. (REPEAT)
(He can change your heart!).....
Change It....Rearrange It....God Said it....Believe it
God has spoken.
Let the church say amen.*

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom. Next session will be January 14th at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be January 4th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, January 9th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Jan 3rd
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, January 8th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Timeless Treasure's** event to see the movie Ella McCay will be on Tuesday, Dec 23rd beginning at 11AM. \$5/pp for seniors of all ages.
- ◆ Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: \$20; Long-sleeved: \$23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- ◆ Visit our **Gifts & Talent Wall** in the Fellowship Hall. Share how you would like to use your gifts and talents to serve the church. This will help us plan for new ministries in 2026.
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, Jan 17th, 11AM – 3PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.
- ◆ **Join in our Fundraisers:**
 - ◆ **Walk in Faith – Donation:** Pledge a multiple of your shoe size (i.e. if your shoe size is a size 9, pledge \$9, or \$18, or \$90, or \$900, etc.)
 - ◆ **Operational Expenses Fund – Donation:** any amount
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
OR text **GIVE** to 844-930-5787 from your mobile phone
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**