



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

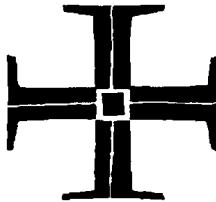
DECEMBER 21, 2025 + 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY LOWER EAST SIDE LUTHERAN PARISH

in the City of New York

Welcome to worship!

*We are so pleased to have you with us this morning for worship,
and we believe that your presence among us more fully completes our community.
Whoever you are, whatever your identities, whoever you love, and wherever you are on
your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!*



Out of respect for this time of worship, please silence all mobile devices.

As Christ welcomed all to his table without distinction, so you are welcome at our table at the celebration of Holy Communion. Regardless of your religious tradition or stage in your journey of faith, there's a place for you here!

Two all-gender restrooms are located in the Community Room on the first floor. A changing table for infants is available.

If you're visiting us this morning and would like to keep in touch,

- *Add your name and contact information to the guest book on the Welcome Table at the sanctuary entrance.*
- *Follow us on social media:*
 - *Facebook: @TrinityLES (including livestreams of worship)*
 - *Instagram: @TrinityLES.NYC*
 - *Follow our feeding ministry @TrinitySAFH on all platforms*

Periodically throughout the year, we offer orientation sessions for newcomers and welcome new members into our congregation. If you've been worshipping with us and would like to learn more about becoming a member of Trinity, be sure to speak with our pastor and you could be a member in no time at all!

Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Mohican and Munsee Lenape peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

+ Gathering +

As the assembly gathers for worship, we sing:
“Prepare Ye” from Godspell, by Stephen Schwartz

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

In the name of the Father who created the earth and the stars of night,
and of the + Son, who draws near to our world in need,
and of the Holy Spirit, whose fire warms our hearts and lightens the world.
Amen.

Let us pray.
We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.



Leader

The Lord be with you.

Assembly

And al - so with you.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

As the candle is lit, the cantor sings:

We give you thanks, O God, for it is you who called forth light, and you led your people Israel with wonders and with signs.

The assembly sings:

Lead us in this sea - son's wait - ing with won - ders speak - ing
hope and signs of Je - sus' in - car - na - tion;

Cantor:

For your mercy is our light and your compassion is our guide,

Assembly:



and with cre-a-tion we glo - ri-fy you through the Son and
in the Spir - it now and ev - er - more.
A - men.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emanuel vv. 1-4

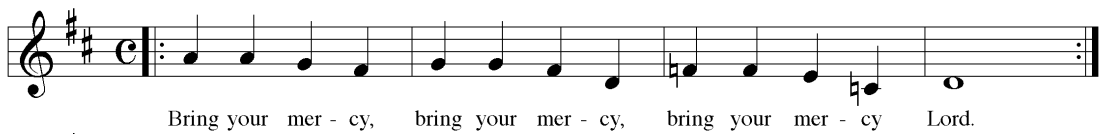
ELW 257

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

*The refrain is sung by the assembly;
the verses are sung by the cantor.*



Bring your mer - cy, bring your mer - cy, bring your mer - cy Lord.

To those who are distant, to those who are near.
To those with resistance, to those who live in fear. **Refrain**

To our hidden places only you can see.
To the many faces yearning to be free. **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

+ Word +

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

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.”.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



Psalm 80:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

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Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? Refrain**

You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**

And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. Refrain**

SECOND READING

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 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We Are Waiting for Jesus

Verse One is sung before the reading of the gospel.

Verse Two is sung after the reading of the gospel.



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

A period of silence for reflection follows, introduced and concluded by the ringing of a bell

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

The following response, using the Aramaic phrase “Maranatha”, or “O Lord, Come”, is sung throughout the prayers as indicated:



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.

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.

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. **Response**

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 for those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

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.

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. **Response**

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

Amen.

THE PEACE

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+ Meal +

OFFERING

An offering is collected to support the work of the church in our community and the world. Gifts may also be made online at www.trinitylowereastside.org/give as one-time or recurring contributions, or on Venmo using the QR code below.



venmo



OFFERTORY SONG

Come to Be our Hope, O Jesus

Español: 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y
 2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -
 English: 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to
 2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the
 li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,
 nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra
 set your peo - ple free. From op -
 road of ser - vant - hood; give new
 na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -
 que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -
 pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -
 life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to
 der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -
 tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu
 ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who
 good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your
 ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros
 rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran
 suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the
 joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man
 pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.
 mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.
 rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.
 sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

Português: 1 Vem, Jesus, nossa esperança, nossas vidas libertar.
 Vem, nascer em nós, criança, vem o teu poder nos dar.
 Vem, liberta os prisioneiros da injustiça e da aflição;
 vem, reúne os forasteiros em amor e em compreensão.
 2 Vem tecer um mundo novo nos caminhos da verdade;
 para que, afinal, o povo viva em plena liberdade.
 Vem, Jesus, abre o futuro do teu reino de alegria.
 Vem, derruba o imenso muro que separa a noite e o dia.

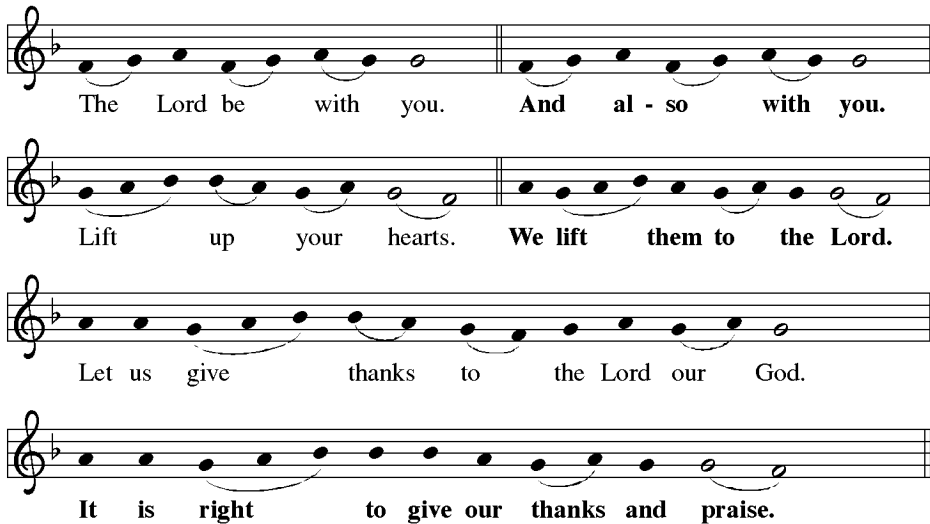
Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez
 Music: JESUS NOSSA ESPERANÇA, Marclício de Oliveira Filho, 1947–2005
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold.

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the presiding minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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The presiding minister continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, remembering God's great saving deeds in this and every time, and calling upon the Holy Spirit to fill us and our bread and wine with God's presence.

The prayer concludes:

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

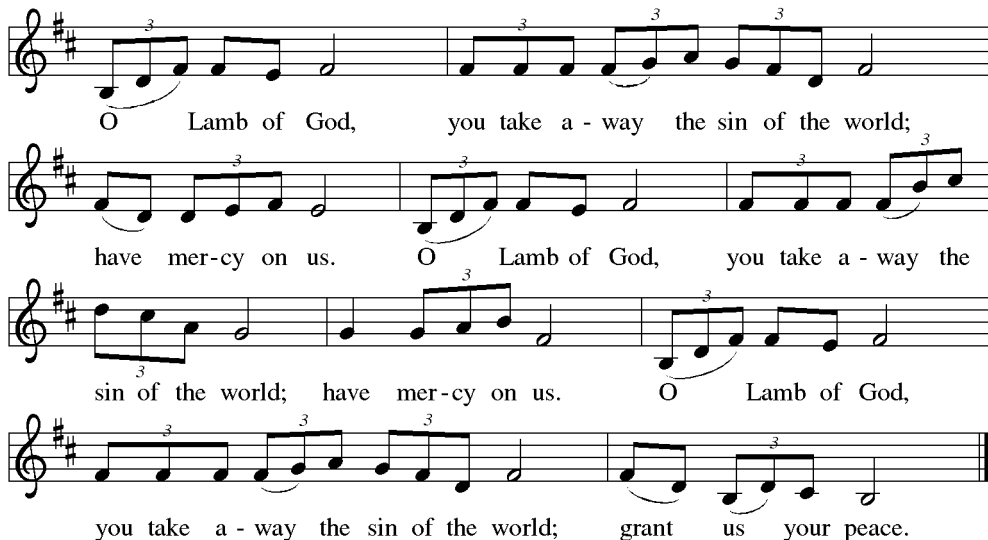
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra
como en el cielo.**

**Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder y tuya es la
gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.**

LAMB OF GOD



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

DISMISSAL

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

This summer's Introduction to the Bible continues with an introduction to the book of Genesis. We'll gather at the end of coffee hour for an introductory study of the first book of the Bible, including a study of its major themes and stories.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, DECEMBER 18

Advent and Christmas aren't always full of holiday cheer. As the nights get longer and longer and the calendar moves steadily toward Christmas, many of us hold sadness and pain for loved ones lost or the daily heartbreaks of a wounded world. On **Thursday, December 18 at 7pm**, we'll gather in the sanctuary for worship.

NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING WITH ST MARK'S AND MIDDLE CHURCH - DEC 21 @ 1:30PM

On Sunday, Dec 21 we'll gather at St Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery to spread Christmas cheer in our neighborhood! We'll walk from St. Mark's to Middle Church, then to Trinity, singing all along. Everyone is welcome to join!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Welcome the birth of Christ at our Christmas Eve candlelight service, Wednesday Dec 24 at 7:00p.m. Filled with beloved carols, holy words of hope, and the glow of candles, our hearts will be filled with joy as we worship the newborn Christ!

NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATIONS GATHERING SOON

Have you been worshiping with us and would like to learn more about our congregation? We'll be offering a series of newcomer's orientations where you'll have a chance to learn about our congregation's history, mission, and ministries, and some basics of the Lutheran tradition. If you'd like to be included, be sure to speak with Pastor Will or Vicar Nick!

COAT DRIVE

Trinity's Services And Food for the
Homeless is collecting coats for
New Yorkers in need



**DONATE
YOUR
USED
COATS**



**TO EAST
VILLAGE
HOMELESS**

NOW THROUGH DEC 31

ANY CLEAN, GENTLY USED JACKET OR COAT IS WELCOME.

www.safhnyc.org

About Trinity:

Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are 3.8 million Christians in 10,000 churches who believe that the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the core of our faith and life. We welcome women, men, and people of all genders into ordained ministry and are enthusiastically ecumenical.

Our Mission:

We welcome everyone into membership regardless of race, economic means, married/single status, sexual orientation, or gender expression and/or identity. We are a richly diverse congregation in a richly diverse neighborhood. We live our Christianity in word and deed. We are here to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Reconciling Works Congregation:

Trinity LES is listed as a Reconciling Works congregation that welcomes LGBTQIA+ people into our fellowship and works to erase all discrimination against them.

Our Outreach:

To carry out our ministry of deed, Trinity LES has a separately incorporated non-profit program, Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless (also known as SAFH, pronounced "safe") which operates a soup kitchen, food pantry, and offers connections to other services. Between 150-250 meals are served each day, and around 30-40 families are given groceries from our pantry Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed. Visit safhnyc.org for more information.

Our Schedule:

Mon – Fri: 11:00am, Soup Kitchen; 12:30pm, Food Pantry
Mon: 7:00pm, "Valley of the Dolls" NA Group
Tues: 7:00pm and 8:00pm, "East Village" AA Group
Wed: 7:30pm, STP Creative Foundation
Thurs: 7:30pm, "Clean and Dry" AA Group
Sun: 11:00am, Worship Service

Those Who Serve:

Pastor: Rev. William Kroeze (pastor@trinitylowereastside.org)
Pastoral Intern: Vicar Nicolas Paulson-Moe (vicar@trinitylowereastside.org)
Pianist: Paul Staroba
Choir Director: Alex Lawrence (alex@trinitylowereastside.org)
Administrator: Gillian Fox Orwoll (office@trinitylowereastside.org)
Worship Assistants, Crucifers, Readers: Members and Friends of Trinity

Our Contact Information:

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