

**THE DIVINE SERVICE:
RITE THREE**

*[based on pp. 88–106 in the
black hymnal—the
Evangelical Lutheran
Hymnary (ELH)]*

Call to Worship • Advent 4

[Isaiah 45:8 (EHV)]

ASTOR: *Today we pray for God to come to us, His Church, just as He came in the past and will come again at the end. May we trust in His Word and promises just as Mary did, recognizing they have been consistent and true from the very beginning.*

“Shower down, you heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness.

CONGREGATION: **Let the earth open up, so that salvation will produce fruit.”**

Hymn • “Behold a Branch is Growing”

[ELH 121]

- 1. Behold, a Branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse’s race
And bears one little Flow’r
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**

- 4. This Flow’r, whose fragrance tender,
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.**

-Stand-

Confession of Sins

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

Amen.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, unto 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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins:

LL Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of the World:

We confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word and deed, provoking Your wrath against us.

We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer for Mercy ~ *Kyrie Eleison*

[Mark 10:47]

O God the Father in heaven:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter:

Have mercy upon us.

Forgiveness of Sin ~ Absolution

Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PART 2: THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thank God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He then increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the *Lessons* and the *Psalms*, and especially through the *Sermon* where God's Word is applied to our lives today.

Song of Praise • “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

[ELH 128]

1. **Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**
2. **Sin and death may well be groaning,
Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning,
Cast our ev'ry care away.**
7. **O the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing
That our freedom Thou hast wrought.**

Prayer of the Day • Advent 4

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to take away the burden of our sins and remove the distractions of the world from us. Make us ready for the celebration of your birth through repentance and prayer, by meditating on Your Word and receiving Your Sacrament. Only then,

through Your gracious working, will we receive You in joy and serve You always.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our living Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

-Be seated-

First Lesson • Hebrews 10:5–10

The writer to the Hebrews shows how Jesus taking on a human body was part of God's plan for salvation. Only as a human could He be the sacrifice for humans like us.

When he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am.

I have come to do your will, God.

In the scroll of the book it is written about me." (*Psalm 40:6–8*)

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,
both burnt offerings and sin offerings,
you did not desire,

and you were not pleased with them. (*Psalm 40:6*)

⁹Then he said:

Here I am.

I have come to do your will. (*Psalm 40:7*)

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ. (EHV)

This is the Word of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation • John 17:17 (EHV)

[tune: ELH 153]

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Faith comes from hearing You—

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Through Your Word which is true. Through Your Word which is true!

Gospel • Luke 1:46–55

Mary's song of praise is a wonderful example of a believer's joyful reaction to God's good news.

Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever. (EHV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

God be praised for His glad tidings!

-Be seated-

Hymn • *“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”*

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|---|---|
| <p>1. My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit shall in God rejoice.
My humble state He did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.</p> <p>2. Henceforth shall people call me blest,
For great things He has done for me.
The mighty God is now my Guest;
The Holy One has set me free.</p> <p>3. His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in Him from age to age.
His arm of strength to all is near;
The proud He scatters, though they rage.</p> | <p>4. The strong He casts down from
their seat
And raises those of low degree.
To hungry souls He now gives
meat;
The rich depart in poverty.</p> <p>5. He helped His servant Israel,
Rememb'ring His eternal grace,
As from of old He did foretell
To Abraham and all his race.</p> <p>6. So praise with me the Holy One,
Who comes in all humility.
To our Redeemer, God's own
Son,
Be glory in eternity!</p> |
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Sermon • *Luke 1:50–55*

Praise God for His Justice

-Stand-

Confession of Faith ~ *Nicene Creed*

Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his

Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Reception of Offerings and Prayer



Offerings are brought by those who are thankful to God for saving them through Jesus. Before the service starts we collect the offering in the designated areas in the entryway and Gathering Room.

For those who wish to give digitally, please use the link to our PayPal account to the left, or consult our Church Website: www.trinityels.org

Special Prayers

PART 3: THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds us with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.

FOR OUR GUESTS: Please note that Trinity practices "Close Communion" (or "Membership Communion"). This means we only

Commune with people who believe and teach the same doctrine which we do (ELS or WELS). This is necessary because Christ commands us to be unified as a congregation (Ephesians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17). He warns that—much like abusing a powerful medicine—those who improperly receive Holy Communion receive Divine judgment rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29). And, contrary to the way many congregations practice today, “Close Communion” is the ancient practice of the Christian church (Acts 2:42). Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, please speak with the pastor BEFORE the service to find out how our “Close Communion” practice affects you.

Great Thanksgiving

[2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136]

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should always and everywhere give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy upon us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

[Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25;

Words of Institution

Through these words, the presence of our Lord's Body and Blood is effected in our midst.]

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night... in remembrance of me.

Song to the Lamb • “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

[ELH 41, st. 1]



☐ Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross did suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

*-Be seated-***Distribution and Hymn •**

1. O how shall I receive Thee,
How welcome Thee aright!
All nations long to greet Thee,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O Jesus, Jesus, set Thee
Thy lamp within my breast,
And by its guidance let me
Know what doth please Thee best.
2. Thy Zion strews before Thee
Green boughs and fairest palms,
And I, too, will adore Thee
With sweetest songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For Thee with praises new,
And from Thy name shall never
Withhold the honor due.
3. What hast Thou left ungranted
To give me glad relief?
When soul and body panted
In utmost depth of grief,
In deepest degradation,
Devoid of joy and peace,
Then, Thou, my soul's Salvation,
Didst come to bring release.

*“O How Shall I Receive Thee”**[ELH 94]*

4. I lay in fetters groaning,
Thou com'st to set me free;
I stood, my shame bemoaning,
Thou com'st to honor me;
A glory Thou dost give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.
5. Naught, naught, dear Lord, could
move Thee
To leave Thy rightful place
Save love, for which I love Thee;
A love that could embrace
A world where sorrow dwelleth,
Which sin and suffering fill,
More than the tongue e'er telleth;
Yet Thou couldst love it still!
6. Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed,
And tremble at your doom;
Despair not, He is near you,
Yea, standing at the door,
Who best can help and cheer you,
And bid you weep no more.

7. No care nor effort either
Is needed day or night,
How ye may draw Him hither
In your own strength and might.
He comes, He comes with gladness,
Moved by His love alone,
To calm your fear and sadness,
To Him they well are known.
8. Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover with His grace.
He comes, He comes procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
For all God's sons securing
Their heritage in heav'n.
9. Why should the wicked move you?
Heed not their craft and spite!
Your Savior who doth love you
Will scatter all their might.
He comes, a King most glorious,
And all His earthly foes
In vain His course victorious
Endeavor to oppose.
10. He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A Light of consolations
And blessed Hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Thy beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home!

-Stand-

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks and pray:

Almighty God and Father, we thank You for feeding us with the most precious body and blood of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Your Son, and heirs of Your eternal Kingdom. Send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve You as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Final Blessing to You ~ Benediction

The Lord bless you... and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn • "Lord Jesus Christ We Humbly Pray"

[text: 311, sts 4–5; tune: ELH 123]

- 4. One bread, one cup, one body, we,
United by our life in Thee,
Thy love proclaim till Thou shalt come
To bring Thy scattered loved ones home.**
- 5. Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
To keep us steadfast to that day
That each may be Thy welcomed guest
When Thou shalt spread Thy heav'nly feast.**

Worship Notes

- Preacher: Pastor Hartwig
- Organist: Judy Lemke
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- 8:00 a.m.—Ushers: Fred, Tim, Jordan, Ben Gauger, Adam Krause, Stuart Kissinger, Mark Uhlig
- 10:30 a.m.—Ushers: Bob, Jason & Dylan Loduha, Marshall Harting, Roger Kaschner, Keith Luebke, Kyle Luebke, Josh Meier
- December Altar Committee: Barb Miller: 414-659-7654