

# *Love*

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 21<sup>st</sup> 2025

# Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

*A Total Ministry Congregation*

820 Fourth Street  
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International Falls, Minnesota  
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**Our Mission:** To seek, know, love and serve  
Christ in all persons and all Creation.

Ministers: All the Baptized  
Celebrant: The Rev. Dr Samantha Crossley  
Deacon: The Venerable Rev. Lee Grim

Readers: Georgeann & Andy Wright  
Music: Gerry & Jackie Guimond

Bishop of Minnesota: The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya

***Watch Holy Trinity Livestream on Facebook***  
***Sundays: 10:00 am***  
***Services can also be viewed on KCC-TV***

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
 4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,  
 5. O come, O Key of Dav - id, come,

And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
 Who or - ders all things might - i - ly;  
 Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height  
 From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
 And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 To us in the path of knowl - edge show,  
 In an - cient times once gave the law,  
 That trust your might - y power to save,  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And teach us in her ways to go.  
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 And close the path to mis - er - y.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
 Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high  
 And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadow put to flight.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of humankind;  
 O bid our sad divisions cease,  
 And be for us our King of Peace.

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Advent Gathering Song

The musical score is written for a choir in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features a melody for the choir and a cantorial part. The lyrics are: 'Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - come. man - u - el. 1. For the Lord of cre - a - tion will 2. Oh the son of Mar - y will 5. For the an - gel pro - claims he will'.

*Choir:*  
Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em -

*Cantor:*  
(Cantorial part)  
come.  
man - u - el.

1. For the Lord of cre - a - tion will  
2. Oh the son of Mar - y will  
5. For the an - gel pro - claims he will

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

## Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 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."

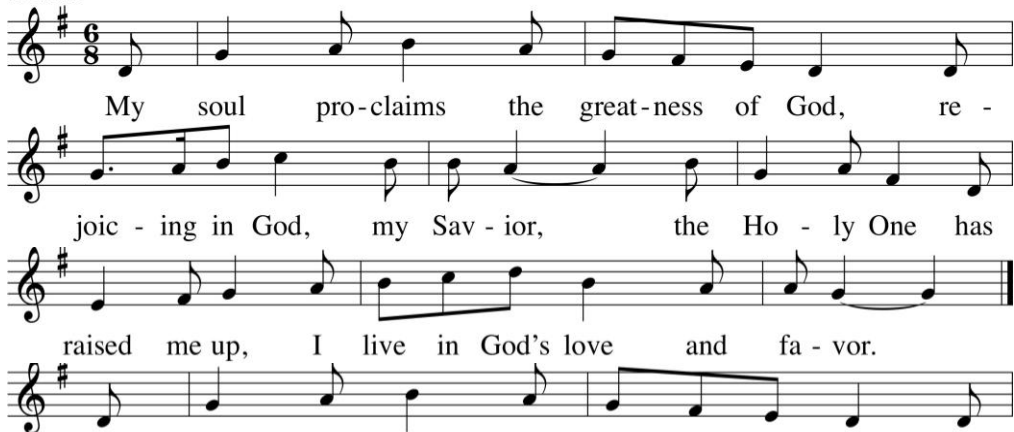
**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

### My Soul Proclaims

Refrain



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of God, re -  
joic - ing in God, my Sav - ior, the Ho - ly One has  
raised me up, I live in God's love and fa - vor.

1. The Might - y One works great things in me:
2. The arm of God is jus - tice and might:
3. God top - ples ev - 'ry ty - rant and crown: My
4. With won - drous things, God's ban - quet is spread:



*Cantor:*

soul re-joic - es in God.  
All faith - ful ser - vants God's  
God puts the proud and the  
The low - ly raised and the  
The rich go hun - gry, the

*All:*

mer - cy shall see:  
 schem - ing to flight: My soul re - joic - es,  
 might - y brought down:  
 hun - gry are fed:

sings and re-joic-es, glad - ly re-joic-es in God. *D.C.*

## Second Reading

## Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 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, 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, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 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.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*All who are able, please stand.*

## Gradual Hymn

### ALLELUIA! HURRY, THE LORD IS NEAR

*Refrain*

Al - le-lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near.

1. Sound\_ the trum-pet, the
2. Earth\_ has longed \_ for
3. Go out to meet \_ him,
4. He is the might-y one,

1. Lord \_\_\_ is near; Hur-ry, the Lord is near; see, \_\_\_ he  
 2. his \_\_\_ ap-proach: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; straight-en the  
 3. shout \_\_\_ his name: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; his might-y  
 4. he is the Word: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; God ev - er -

1. comes \_\_\_ to save us all.  
 2. road, \_\_\_\_\_ smooth the path.  
 3. king-dom shall nev - er end.  
 4. last - ing, Prince of Peace. } Hur-ry, the Lord is near!

## ***Holy Gospel***

## ***Matthew 1:18-25***

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## ***Sermon***

*All who are able, please stand.*

*People and Celebrant*

## ***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.



## ***Prayers of the People***

*Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ, saying: O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the church, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

Hear our prayers for all in need, especially Ashley Kostiuk, Meghan Finlayson, Mike Solomon, Julie Melstrom, Jane Barthel, Menchu Lopez, Wade Howe, Brenda Wood, Dave Karraffa, Dave Fisher, Kristi Jorgenson, Todd Johnson, Karen Cendejas & Sue Vidor. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the foundations that minister to children with special needs, especially for the work of the Sheltering Arms Foundation and for all who work in child protection agencies throughout the state of Minnesota. For St. Johns' Anglican Church (*Fort Frances, Ontario*) & St Paul Lutheran Church (Int'l Falls). O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us,

***Hear our prayer.***

*Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen Christ.*

*Celebrant says*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth; mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

*Silence.*

## ***Confession of Sin***

*All who are able, may kneel.*

*The Celebrant says*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

*The Deacon then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

## ***Minister and People***

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our  
Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of  
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

## ***The Peace***

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Please be seated*

## ***Announcements***

## ***Holy Communion***

*The celebrant says*

Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us.

*All who are able, please stand*

## ***Offertory Hymn***

### **THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME**



- |                               |               |                |                 |     |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1. The an - gel               | Ga - bri - el | from heav - en | came,           | His |
| 2. "For know a                | bles - ed     | Moth - er      | you shall be,   | All |
| 3. Then gen - tle             | Ma - ry       | meek - ly      | bowed her head; | "To |
| 4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, | the Christ,   | was born       |                 | In  |



- |                         |                    |             |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------|
| 1. wings as drift - ed  | snow, his eyes     | as flame;   | "All |
| 2. gen - er - a - tions | praise con - tin - | ual - ly,   | Your |
| 3. me be as it          | pleas - es God!"   | she said.   | "My  |
| 4. Beth - le - hem,     | all on a Christ    | - mas morn; | And  |

1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"  
 2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."  
 3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
 4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: } "Most

1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

## ***Prayers Over The Gifts***

Gracious God, accept these Gifts from your people in gratitude for all your blessings poured out upon us. ***Amen***

*All who are able, please remain standing*

## ***Great Thanksgiving***

***Celebrant*** The Lord be with you.

***People*** And also with you.

***Celebrant*** Lift up your hearts.

***People*** We lift them to the Lord.

***Celebrant*** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People*** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant proceeds (Lines in **BOLD** are spoken by the People)*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and  
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

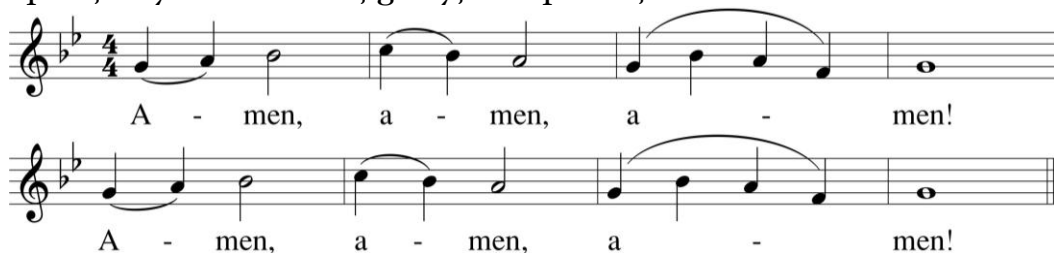
On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



*The people may stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

As our Savior Christ  
has taught us, we now pray,

***People and Celebrant***

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial,**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the bread*

*A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

***Communion is open to everyone***

## ***Communion Hymn***

### Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1. Each win - ter as the year grows old - er,  
 2. When race and class cry out for trea - son,  
 3. Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing,  
 4. So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing,  
 5. O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows,

We each grow old - er for too. The  
 When si - rens call for war, They  
 That life can spring from death; That  
 To jour - ney to the north, The  
 O Prince of peace and pain, Bright -

chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; The  
o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son, And  
growth can flow - er from our griev - ing; That  
liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, Can  
en - to - day's world by to - mor - row's, Re -

ver - i - ties we knew Seem shak - en and un - true.  
scream till we ig - nore All we held dear be - fore.  
we can catch our breath And turn trans - fixed by faith.  
kin - dle on the earth, And bring God's love to birth.  
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*All who are able, please stand or kneel*

***Celebrant and People***

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**

**Now send us forth**

**a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Blessing***

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness  
from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

***Closing Hymn:***



# People, Look East 318



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare.  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth



Of the crown - ing of the year.  
 One more seed is plant - ed there:  
 Guard the nest that must be filled.  
 One more light the bowl shall brim,  
 Him who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen  
 Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 That in course the flow'r may flour - ish.  
 He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 With the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:



Love the Guest is on the way.  
 Love the Rose is on the way.  
 Love the Bird is on the way.  
 Love the Star is on the way.  
 Love the Lord is on the way.

## ***Dismissal***

**Deacon**      Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

**People**      Thanks be to God.

*Hymns are reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-709249 & CCLI # 22261172A & 22261189A*

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***Next Sunday: December 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist***

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***Notice: We will need 5 New Vestry Members  
for 2026***



***Poinsettias***  
***Sign up sheet on front table***



***Christmas Eve Service***  
***4:00 pm***



*Dec 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Jesus*

***Congratulations to you: May your faith be true & may God's love and blessing descend upon you!***



***We will have a Food Shelf Box in the Front Entry Starting Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to be turned in the 1<sup>st</sup> of each Month starting Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.***



# Advent Wreath

**1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)