

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 11, 2022

ACS Setting 12



A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Worship service on Sunday mornings during the summer is at 10:00 A.M. and also on livestream.

A nursery room is available during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have “activity binders” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REV. TINA MELUSKY – Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL – Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

ANNE OBARA – Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM – Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN – Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://trinitynn.org>

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

Bulletin cover image by JoAnne Rawls

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Es Ist Ein Ros*

Johannes Brahms

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Wessler Family

RESPONSE

Hope Is a Star (v. 3)

Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be
first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985

MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987

© 1989 Hope Publishing Company

GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever. **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on † Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

ELW 264

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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.




Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:5-10 (*spoken*)

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

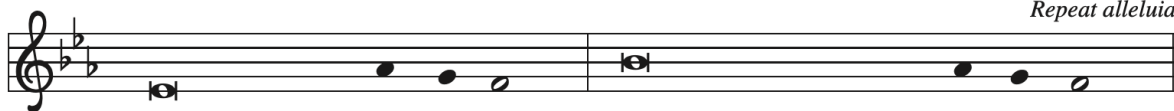
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

**I am sending my messen- | ger before you
who will prepare your | way before you.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Tina

SERMON

Pastor Tina

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1-7)

ELW 257

VENI EMMANUEL

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Doddridge/Thorne

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long!

Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held,

The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure;

And with the treasures of his grace enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;

And heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

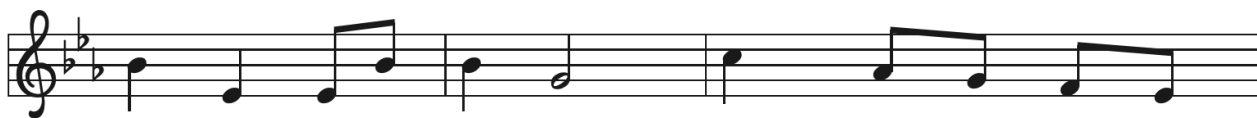
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

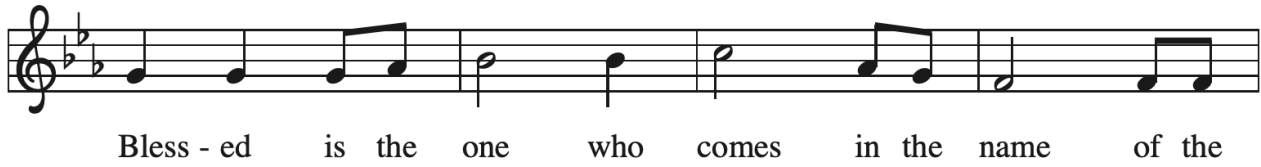
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,

we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you

and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and 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.**

The assembly sits.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

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

COMMUNION

Communion will be held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
SUO GÂN

ACS 901

The assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord

ELW 200

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
REJOICE, REJOICE

ELW 242

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

John Behnke



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greening of the Church TODAY!: After worship, the youth and the Worship and Music committee will be decorating and greening the sanctuary. We could use any and all help to complete this task. Please join us in this festive ministry of decorating our worship space.

Bible 365!: Trinity members will be joining their siblings in Christ at Christ Lutheran Church, Duncannon, PA, starting late January 2023, for a weekly reading of the Bible. Our goal is to read the Bible starting with the Old Testament first and then reading the New Testament twice through before the end of 2023. Let Pastor Tina know if you are interested. A Constant Contact will go out soon with many more details about this new adventure. All are welcome to join us, including friends and family members who are not members of Trinity.

New Address Information: Alan Bobbe will be moving to apartment #36 at Warwick Forest as of Friday, December 2. Also, the Recupero family has moved to York County. Their new address is 107 Lake Herrin Court, Yorktown, VA, 23693. Please make those changes in your directory.

The TEAM (Trinity Endowment And Ministries) Foundation is soliciting inputs for this year's charitable donations to local, national, and global organizations that embody TELC's statement of purpose. Organizations historically funded are, but not limited to, those that live into our desire to provide social ministry and community care and faith growth and development. Last year's \$5,000 distribution included donations to Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, ELCA Leadership Fund, First Nations Development Institute, Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Pastoring the City, The Simple Sunflower. This year's distribution will include a portion of the Kessler bequest totaling over \$17,000 for causes you care about! Please fill out the attached form and submit to a member of Church Council or directly to church administrators **by January 1** for TEAM Committee consideration and Congregation Council approval. **FORMS FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS MAY BE FOUND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AND IN THE NARTHEX.**

Newsome-Bailey Project: There are THREE options for helping underserved students in the East End, currently. Our newest request is to tutor GED students M-TH (9-12 &/or 12:45-2PM) with YouthBuild at Four Oaks Day Center. Newsome Park has tutoring spots open M-F 10:15-11:45 AM, working 1:1 with 3rd graders. And/Or you may choose to work with PK and K students on early reading/writing skills from 8:30 - 10 AM M-F at Marshall Early Learning Center. If you or someone you know would like to be trained for these volunteer positions, all in the East End NN, please contact Tinaotool@gmail.com or at 402-490-0312. You

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: The next Bible study will be held on **December 13** at **10:30 a.m.** in the church parlor and online via Zoom. All are welcome!

Church Council Meeting: Our December council meeting will be held at Pastor Tina and Ben's home on **Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.** Please carpool if possible.

Midweek Advent Services - "Preparing for Holy Disruption": Our theme for **December 14** is **Receiving**. Our services will all focus on ways in which we can prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the inbreaking of God into our world, how we can prepare ourselves for the holy disruption that is Christ's birth.

Congregational Meetings: On December 18, there will be one more brief congregational meeting for council elections and other budgetary/property business.

Holiday and Christmas Services and Events: Please see a back page for details. Also, an email with these listed events went out this past week.

YOUTH

Pure Vida Bracelets Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering: The youth are still selling Pure Vida bracelets to raise money for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2024. The bracelets are **\$5 each** and make great gifts. Call the church office if you need an order form or grab one from either the narthex or church office.

Sunday School for Youth Group: Come and hang out before church (8:45 -9:45) and join us in conversation and movie watching. We will be watching *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* this month.

Winter Celebration: Our VA Synod Annual Event Winter Celebration is back! All high school aged youth are eligible to attend, and it will take place **Friday, January 27 through Sunday, January 29** at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA. There are large and small group gatherings during the weekend. On Saturday afternoon, there is a large chunk of free time where you can participate in the annual Talent Show. We also have two of our own youth serving on the planning team - Keegan Wise and Emma Recupero. If you plan to attend this event, please register online at the VA Synod Youth Ministry webpage (link is found on our webpage) and **pay your fee of \$150 by December 19**. Also indicate on the Trinity Youth Facebook site that you plan to attend.

****Homebound Christmas Cards**:** Please drop by the Narthex and sign cards that were made at the Advent Event for our homebound members. They will be delivered today with presents when we carol at their homes.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Choir practice: Choir rehearsals are on **Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m.** Any youth or adult who enjoys singing is invited to join us - no musical training required, and we can work with any voice!

Bell Choir: If you are interested in ringing choir bells, (with Geoffrey Bell as our leader), **please stay after church on Sunday mornings** to join us in merriment. We practice every Sunday immediately after worship.

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Nursing Homes/ Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131; Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit): Joan Johnston (The Newport – Rm 33); Shut-in at Home: Peggy Cash, Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Doris Moeser, and Dick Sallade.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: **The Ahlen Family and Becky Peterson**, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother)**, requested by the Ardis family; **Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters)**, requested by Grant and Donna Owens; **Matt Adamo (Brother-in-law of Patricia)**, requested by Patricia Fielding; **Donna Gauthier**, requested by Laura Davis; **Donald Hall (son)**, requested by Susan Hall; **for the mental health of all those who are first responders**, requested by Dinah Balthis; **David Harvey (uncle) and Shirley Krause**, requested by Anne Obara; **Matt Eggar**, requested by Don and Sandy Sniady; **James Newsome (son-in-law)**, requested by Bill Solomon; **Dick Duregger**, requested by Sandy Cobb; and **Susan Grosser (Nurse in charge of Costa Rican Mission Community and Clinic)**, requested by Patricia Wessler; **Bob Johnson**, requested by Al Lebold; and **the family and friends of Jack Johnston**.

Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty: James Fielding, State Dept., Myanmar; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Belleville, IL.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB; Josh and Ellen (Davis) Badgley, State Department, Bangkok, Thailand; Michael Titus, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and Elisabeth Bruce.

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Anne's parents' 70th wedding anniversary on December 22, 2022, by Anne and Cliff Obara.

Serving the Assembly

Crucifer

Keegan Wise

Acolytes

Samantha Harry

Karina Stevens

Lector

Dave Roselius

Ushers/Greeters/Presenters

Anne Obara

Cliff Obara

Camera/Livestream

Kelly Rummel

Trinity Holiday Schedule

Advent Midweek Services Starts November 30, 6:30 PM

Zoom (a link will be sent out each week)

Greening the Church Sunday, December 11

After 10:00 AM Worship

TLS Lessons and Carols Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM

Livestreamed

Blue Christmas Monday, December 19, 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

2:00 PM; 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM (Musical Prelude)

And 7:30 PM Service begins

Only 7:30 service will be livestreamed

Christmas Day 10:00 AM

(Service of Poetry and the word)

Livestreamed and In person

Sunday, January 1 10:00 AM

Lay led Lessons and Carols

Livestreamed and in person

Poinsettias may be picked up

Merry Christmas!



The Longest Nights

presented by

VIRGINIA
Choral
SOCIETY

featuring *The Longest Nights*
by Timothy Takach
and other holiday favorites

Saturday, December 17th ~ 4:00
Trinity Lutheran Church, NN

Sunday, December 18th ~ 4:00
Peebles Theatre - CNU

www.vachoralsociety.org

TEAM MONIES REQUEST FORM

Request Guidelines:

DUE: January 1, 2023

1. Monies can only be dispersed to **organizations**, they cannot be used for individuals.
2. **One form** should be submitted for **each request**.
3. Information and/or justification for giving to this organization must be included.
4. Return completed forms to the church administrator via e-mail, mail, or in person.

admin@trinitynn.org OR Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
ATTENTION: TEAMS Foundation
6812 River Road
Newport News, VA 23607

Please complete the following information:

Submitted by (*Your Name*): _____ Date: _____

Name of Organization for Requested Monies:

Org Information/Justification:

Contact Person and Address of Organization:

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Check to be made Payable to: _____

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Amount Approved: \$ _____ **Date:** _____

Committee Chair: _____

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.





Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in



peace: your word has been ful - filled. My



own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of all peo-ple: a light to re -



veal you to the na-tions and the glo - ry of your



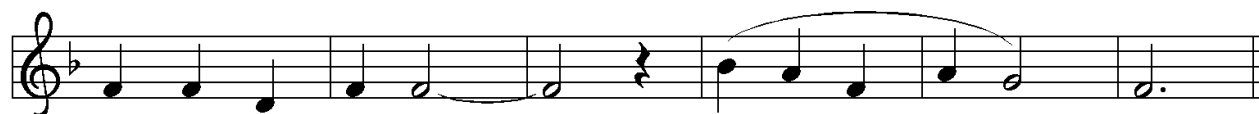
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,



and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



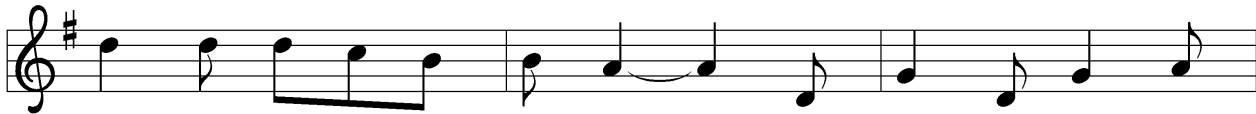
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



will be for - ev - er. A - men.



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.