



TOGETHER IN CHRIST

| Abiding in God's eternal Word, embodied by Jesus and active in us

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 21, 2025 - 10am

ADVENT IV: WORD MADE FLESH

In the Word, God becomes human and lives among us, bringing life.

Welcome to worship!

The ushers are ready to assist you in any way.

Please help yourself to materials at the Family Worship Resource Table or the Child Comfort Corner at the sanctuary entrance.

Prelude

Variations on a Noël

-Dupre

Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God who was and is and is to come,

Despite our best intentions, even our deepest desires, we find ourselves time and again turning away from you to follow after other gods—possessions, people, comforts—in an effort to fill the hole that only you can. In so doing we have harmed ourselves, others, and your holy creation by what we have said and done, and by the things we have neglected to do. Open our eyes to see that you alone are the source of our wholeness. Forgive us our wrongs and inspire us to the work of making them right, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

Beloved of God, like the prodigal son, you are always received with great joy, and your sins are forgiven you. Go forth in newness of life. **Amen.**

Hymn

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Hymn 510

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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.

**He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, God of all time, Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Greeting

Lesson

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

²Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Response *stand*

Prepare the Royal Highway (verse 1)

Hymn 264

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

The gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and

without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' " ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymn 295

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten
 ere the worlds began to be,
 he is Alpha and Omega,
 he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
 and that future years shall see,
 evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
 when the virgin, full of grace,
 by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
 first revealed his sacred face,
 evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time
 chanted of with one accord,
 whom the voices of the prophets
 promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
 let creation praise its Lord
 evermore and evermore.
- 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
 angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
 and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
 ev'ry voice in concert ring
 evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

Apostles' 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.

Ministry Announcements

Prayers of Intercession Response: hear our prayer

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Offering

www.engagedbygrace.org/offering



Offertory

Magnificat

-Stopford

*My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen. *sit*

Communion

All baptized believers of Christ as their Savior are invited to the table. Please approach the table as you are ready.

Children are invited to receive a blessing.

You may request gluten-free bread or grape juice by raising a finger to the communion server.

Blessing *stand*

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

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymn 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer after Communion

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

Blessing & Dismissal

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.**

Go in peace, together in Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Chancel flowers today are given by Beth and Doug Myser in memory of Kenneth Sauer, Beth Myser's and Christine Buehner's father.

Liturgical Ministers

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Pastor Steve Wachtman **Director of Equipping Ministers:** Laura Hudson
Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck **Director of Faith Formation:** Noelle Fox

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