

God Invites us to the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We Join Earth and Heaven in Song

Holy, holy, holy,

Lord, God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name

In earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy,

Merciful and mighty

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

We Proclaim the Mystery of Our Faith

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

God Feeds us at the Table

We Share Praises and Requests and We Pray Together

We Share Announcements

God Sends Us

We Sing the Doxology

Our prayer of confession and assurance of forgiveness is from the Book of Common Prayer.

The Early Service at Trinity

December 22, 2024 - 8:30 am

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

God Gathers Us for Worship

Advent Candles, Bible, Water, Towel, Bread, and Cup

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!**

**Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.**

We Prepare for the Coming Messiah (*from Hosea 1:1-11*)

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

**But the more they were called,
the more they went away from me.**

They sacrificed to the Baals
and they burned incense to images.

**It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by the arms;
but they did not realize
it was I who healed them.**

“I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.

To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.

**Will they not return to Egypt
and will not Assyria rule over them
because they refuse to repent?**

“A sword will flash in their cities;
it will devour their false prophets
and put an end to their plans.

**My people are determined to turn from me.
Even though they call me God Most High,
I will by no means exalt them.**

“How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboyim?
**My heart is changed within me;
all my compassion is aroused.**

“I will not carry out my fierce anger,
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.
**For I am God, and not a man—
the Holy One among you.
I will not come against their cities.**

“They will follow the LORD;
he will roar like a lion.
**When he roars, his children will come
trembling from the west.**
They will come from Egypt,
trembling like sparrows,
from Assyria, fluttering like doves.
**I will settle them in their homes,”
declares the LORD.**

We Sing a Hymn of Expectation – “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

**Come, behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the king
He the theme of Heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now, the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us**

**Come, behold the wondrous mystery
He is the perfect son of man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law in Him, we stand**

We Affirm Our Faith (Nicene Creed)

**We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come.**

Amen.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery
Christ, the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come, behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death, the God of life
But no grave could ever restrain Him
Praise the Lord, He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

What a foretaste of deliverance
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Christ in power resurrected
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We Confess Our Sins

**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.**

Prayers of silent confession

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

We Share the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

God Speaks Through the Word and Spirit

"Be Not Afraid: Out of Egypt I Have Called My Son"— Matthew 2:13-18

³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."