



Season of Advent  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Nov. 30 – Dec. 21, 2025  
Sundays at 10:15AM



Voluntary

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta Wiley, Rector

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Celebrant offers a specific prayer for each week:*

11/30 Merciful God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. As we light this first candle, the candle of **hope**, we dare to express our longing for you to come to our world, to break through, and reign with compassion and justice. Show us the power of **hope**. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*All* **Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

12/7 Merciful God, we trust that you are never absent from us, even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts. We light this second candle, the candle of **peace**, knowing that you are always present, gently leading us to new possibilities. In this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the **hope** and **peace** you unfailingly offer us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*All* **Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

12/14 Merciful God, we have lit the first two candles, one for **hope** and one for **peace**. Today we light the third candle, the candle of **joy**. As we do, help us to open ourselves to this spiritual gift, trusting that you have created us for **joy** and planted it in us to be holy nourishment in good times and hard times. Prepare our hearts with **hope**, **peace**, and **joy**, that we may be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*All* **Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

12/21 Merciful God, in Scripture you teach us that you are love. We light this fourth candle—the candle of **love**, to signify your love that surrounds and fills us, and insists that we reflect it into the world. We know there is no greater power than **love**. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. Magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*All* **Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

Entrance Hymn

*Please stand or sit as best helps you sing.*

11/30, *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*, H 59

12/7, *There's a voice in the wilderness crying!*, H 75

12/14, *Come, thou long expected Jesus*, H 66

12/21, *People, look East*, WLP 724

## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **God's mercy endures forever. Amen.**

## Collect for Purity

*All* 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.

## Opening Anthem

*Kyrie eleison*

MHSO 15

Ky - ri - e - e - lei - son. Chri - ste e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - - - son.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray...

- 11/30 Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on 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, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**
- 12/7 Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

12/14 Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

12/21 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.**

**The Lessons:** First Lesson, Response, & Second Lesson

*The readings for the day are found on the following pages.*

**11/30** – Page 11

**12/7** – Page 12

**12/14** – Page 13

**12/21** – Page 15

**Sequence Hymn**

*Please stand or sit as best helps you sing.*

11/30, *O day of God, draw nigh*, H 601

12/7, *Comfort, comfort ye my people*, H 67

12/14, *Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes*, H 72

12/21, *Stay awake, be ready*, MHSO 62 (See Insert)

**Gospel**

*These are also found at the back of your bulletin.*

**The Sermon**

*The people sit.*

**The Creed**

*Please stand, sit, or kneel as best helps you pray.*

**All** 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 human. 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. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who 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.**

## The Prayers of the People

- Deacon* As we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.
- Intercessor* O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially [*Anglican & Diocesan Cycles of Prayer for the day*]. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation.
- People* **Come and teach us your ways, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Help us to stay true to the Spirit of your Word and forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will.
- People* **Come and redeem our life together, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O Root of Jesse, you stand as a standard to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.
- People* **Come and save us and do not delay, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, violence, and injustice.
- People* **Come and set the captives free, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O King of the Nations and their Desire, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially [*immediate prayer list*]. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.
- People* **Come and fulfill our deepest longings, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; remember especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts [*prayer list plus silence*]. Bring comfort to all those who mourn.
- People* **Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, O Christ.**
- Intercessor* O Emmanuel, God with us, Expected One and Savior, we give thanks for all the blessings of this life; for all those who today celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, and for the other blessings we now name silently or aloud [*pause*]. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.
- People* **Come, Lord Jesus, and be known to us in the fullness of your glory.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Holy and Undivided Trinity, in your mercy you have called us to be one as you are one, and so together we offer you Trinity's prayer for mission.

*People* **Loving God, we give you thanks that you have called Trinity Church to be a caring, Christ-centered community, empowered to worship, serve, and grow in faith. Guide us and strengthen us to be ever more welcoming and inclusive, and to encourage all people to love God and one another. Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

### The Peace

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

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Announcements & Blessings

***Birthdays:*** O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant/s as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Anniversaries:*** O God, who has given us the sacrament of marriage that we may know you through the intimacy of married love; send your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and kindness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Travelers:*** O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel especially these your children; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant* Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.  
*Psalms 50:14*



*The Offertory is when we make a sacred gift to God as part of our worship. You can give by putting cash or checks in the offering plate as it comes by or make an electronic offering by texting Trinitytowson to 73256 or using the QR code provided. If you give electronically, please participate in the liturgy by placing one of the e-giving cards found in your pew into the plate. Even if you can't make a financial contribution, you can acknowledge your offering of time and talent to Trinity by using one of the "I give my heart to God" cards found in the Narthex of the Church.*

## Offertory Hymn/Anthem

*Please stand or sit as best helps you sing.*

11/30, *Blest be the king whose coming*, H 74

12/7, *Holy Father, great Creator*, H 368

12/14, *On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry*, H 76

12/21, *Immanuel* by Michael Card

## Doxology

*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!*

H 59, verse 5

*All stand as able and sing as the offerings are brought forward.*

5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant*      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

*All sing*

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

S 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven 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. \_\_\_\_\_

*The People stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant*


We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Abraham's children to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."




*Celebrant*




There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

*Celebrant and People*



We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -



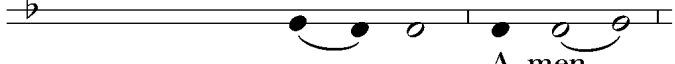
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*Celebrant* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*Celebrant* *People*



A-men.

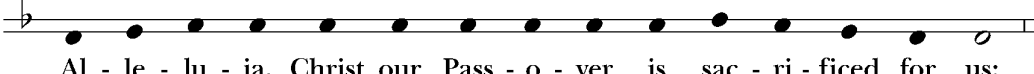
## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,  
*All* **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 Fraction

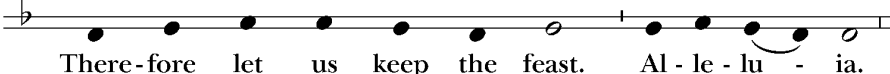
*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence may follow.*

*Celebrant*



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*People*



There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Agnus Dei**  
*All sing*

*O Lamb of God*

S 158



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the Table not of the Church but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and those who want to love God more. So come you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have fallen short. Come; it is Jesus who invites you. It is His will that those who wish to meet Him should find him here.

*In the Episcopal Church we distribute both the Bread and Wine of the Holy Communion, but receiving the Bread only is a full and valid communion. Please ask for a gluten-free wafer if you need one. Our normative practice is to drink from the deeper common cup, but you may also dip your wafer in one of the shallow chalices. If you would prefer not to receive communion, we invite you to come forward with your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. The sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, but here at Trinity no one who comes forward to receive communion is ever turned away.*

## Distribution

*The Bread and the Cup are given to communicants with these words.*

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

### Communion Hymn/Anthem

11/30 *"Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee*, H 615

12/7 *O day of peace that dimly shines*, H 597

12/14 *Once he came in blessing*, H 53

12/21 *Sleepers Awake*, by J.S. Bach

Brian Kookan and Mary Ann Brandli

### Communion Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

H 56

11/30, verses 1-2

12/7, verses 3-4

12/14, verses 5-6

12/21, verses 7-8

### Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### Blessing

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

*Please stand or sit as best helps you sing.*

11/30, *Judge eternal, throned in splendor*, H 596

12/7, *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*, H 57

12/14, *Prepare the way, O Zion*, H 65

12/21, *Soon and very soon*, LEVAS 14 (See Insert)

### Dismissal

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

# Readings



November 30

## First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Response – Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God."

**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

**To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Holy One, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of God.**

For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

**For my kindred and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Holy One our God, I will seek to do you good."

## Second Reading – Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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



December 7

### **First Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will

be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Response – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son,

**That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blest are you, O God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blest is your glorious Name for ever! May all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

### **Second Reading – Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell

you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves,

‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



December 14

### **First Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Response – Psalm 146:4-9**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in their God;

**Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; whose promise abides forever;**

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger.

**God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind; God lifts up those who are bowed down;**

God loves the righteous and cares for the stranger;  
God sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**God shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!**

### **Second Reading – James 5:7-10**

A reading from the letter of James.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11**

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

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

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, Lord Christ.**



December 21

### **First Reading – Isaiah 7:10-16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Response – Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, those whom you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you, give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

### **Second Reading – Romans 1:1-7**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25**

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

**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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**





*The Psalms & Responses are from the St. Helena  
Breviary. Other scripture readings are from the NRSV  
translation of the Bible.*

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## Who We Are

Trinity Towson is a caring and diverse, Christ-centered community called to create and share opportunities for all people to worship God, serve others, and grow in faith as we travel on our spiritual journey. We pursue this mission through Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Preschool, and the Surprise Shop. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community that encourages all people to love God and one another.

## The Vestry and Leadership of Trinity Church

Dara Lewis, *Senior Warden*  
Tracy Martin, *Treasurer*

Cathy Evans, *Junior Warden*  
Mary Beth Jorgensen, *Registrar*

Meg Gardner (2026)  
Joel Moore (2026)

Mary Beth Jorgensen (2027)  
Peggy King (2027)  
Lucinda Shure (2027)  
Jim Thierer (2027)

Tamara Daugherty (2028)  
Tracy Martin (2028)

## Trinity Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta L. Wiley, Rector  
The Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Associate Priest  
The Rev. Cindy Christopher, Deacon  
The Rev. Emily Holman, Assisting Deacon  
Elizabeth Olson Wise, Diocesan Intern  
Debbie Barnes, Office Manager  
Tamara Daugherty, Interim Lay Associate  
Jennifer Korczakowski, Business Manager  
Brandon Smith, Digital Services Manager  
Hardwick Spencer, Organist and Choir Director  
MaryAnn Brandli, Contemporary Music Director  
Mark Beatty, Facilities Manager  
Brenda Jones, Interim Director of Trinity Episcopal Preschool  
Erin Beyland, Director of The Surprise Shop

## Sunday Service Schedule

8am: Holy Communion Quiet Service  
10:15am: Holy Communion Service with Music (also on YouTube & Facebook Live)

## Weekday Services & Bible Study

Wednesday Night Live! Evening Prayer at 6pm only on YouTube & Facebook Live  
Thursdays: 11am Bible Study (Zoom)



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