

Fourth Sunday in Advent

# PEACE CAME TO EARTH



135 NE Randolph Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61606  
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# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23/24, 2023

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Saturday Worship 6:00 p.m. • Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

## WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN LORD

Welcome to Trinity! Today in the Divine Service God proclaims to us through Word and Sacrament the forgiveness, love, and salvation that He has won for us through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. If you are new to Trinity or looking for a church home, we invite you to join our family. Please introduce yourself to our Pastors following the service. After the 8:00 a.m. worship service, please join us for coffee, fellowship, and Christian Education. At various points in the service you will be invited to refer to our hymnal, the **Lutheran Service Book** or LSB (image to the right), located on the back of the seat in front of you.



**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available for persons with vision difficulties.

## ARLEN MEYER BANNER DESCRIPTION

The top of the banner portrays our Triune God in the Glory of Heaven. Love always prevails in God's relationships and dealing with His children. The essence of the Trinity embodies the complete plan to bring His Love to live among us and His Spirit to nurture faith and trust within us. In our liturgical season we anticipate His advent in a four week cycle, but during that time we are reminded that, for centuries, the faithful eagerly watched and waited for a glimpse of the promise to become a reality.

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## THOSE SERVING IN WORD & SACRAMENT MINISTRY

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**Preacher:** Pastor Mark J. Nelson **Liturgist:** Pastor Matthew B. Synnott

**Organist:** Cantor Peter Wykert

**Saturday 6:00 Service** – Comm. Asst.: Dick LeCrone, Mark Morrow; Altar Guild: Mark Morrow; Sound: Chris Pasold

**Sunday 9:30 Service** – Comm. Asst.: Ken Erdman, Chuck Burmeister; Altar Guild: Peggy Livengood; Acolytes: Benjamin Coulter, Mariah Ford; Sound: Mark Stuckwisch; Ushers: Mark Morrow, Larry Haste, Eric Wiesehan

# Divine Service - Setting Four

+ We Come Into God's Presence +

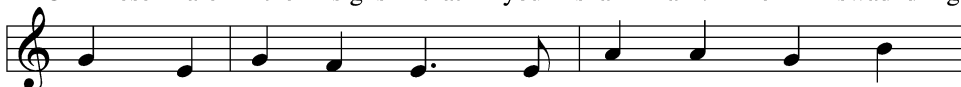
## Prelude

## Ringing of the Bell

## Opening Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Hymn 358 v. 1-5



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

*Please stand*

**Invocation:** *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Blessing of the Advent Wreath

**P** Beloved in the Lord, in this season of Advent we light the candles on this wreath in anticipation of the coming of Christ. May this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says,

**C** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

## Light the Candle

4 Light the can-dle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of hope will come!\_\_\_  
Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but on - ly Christ can give.\_\_\_  
Flick-er and flame and glow\_\_\_ with hope, light up the world a - round you.  
Flick-er and flame and glow\_\_\_ with hope, light up the world a -  
round\_\_\_ you.\_\_\_

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## Confession of Sins

- P** Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- G** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** **Amen.**

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

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## + God Speaks to Us +

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### Old Testament Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Sunday: Soloist

"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

*for text, see hymn 934*

### Epistle Reading

*Romans 16:25-27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Luther's Small Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar – Question 2

**A** *Where is this written?*

**C** The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Please stand*

### Alleluia



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



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the

throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Please be seated*

## Hymn of the Day "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Hymn 358 v.6-10



6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the  
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the  
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You  
10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with



shep - herds let us go To see what God for  
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to  
gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too



us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.  
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.  
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.  
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!  
poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Sermon

*Please stand*



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+ We Respond to God's Word +

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### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Offertory Hymn

"What Child Is This" v. 3

Hymn 370

3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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### Prayers of the Church

**P** ... let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.

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## + God Serves Us His Holy Feast +

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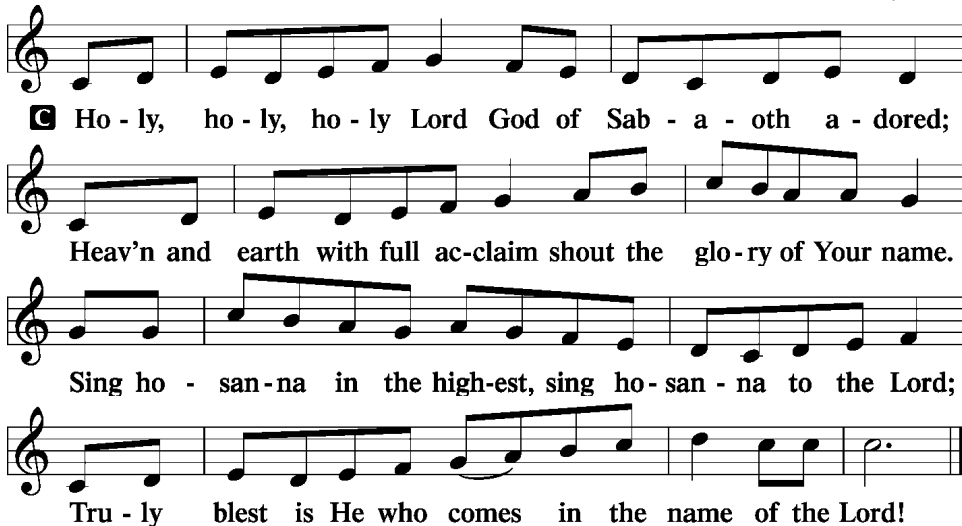
### Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came in the flesh, comes now to us in His body and blood, and will come again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we glorify Your name and praise You singing:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

### The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:25-25*

### Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please be seated*

## Distribution

### Communion Statement

As a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you would like to commune with us but are not a member of a church in fellowship with the LCMS, we ask that you schedule a visit with our pastor before communing. Our communion practice is not intended to exclude anyone, but rather to make certain that we, in love, faithfully administer the sacrament according to Christ’s institution.

If you are not communing, but wish to come forward to receive a blessing, please fold both arms across your heart. Children are also encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

### Sunday: Music During the Distribution

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

LSB 359

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353

“Arise, O Christian People”

LSB 354

### Saturday: Post-Communion Blessing

*Please stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Prayer

**P** Father in heaven, filled with the real presence of Your Son Jesus Christ we wait in faith for when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

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## + God Sends Us Out +

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### Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

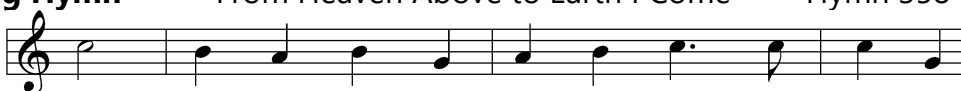
**C** Amen.

*Please be seated*

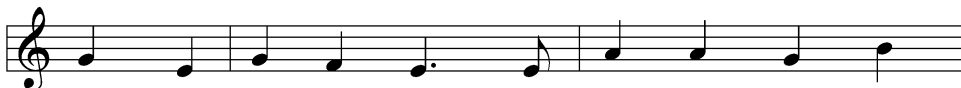
### Closing Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hymn 358 v.11-15



11 In - stead of soft and silk - en stuff You have but  
12 And so it pleas - es You to see This sim - ple  
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a  
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no  
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to



hay and straw so rough On which as King, so  
truth re - vealed to me: That world - ly hon - or,  
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber  
more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with  
us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with



rich and great, To be en - throned in roy - al state.  
wealth, and might Are weak and worth - less in Your sight.  
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.  
joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Silent Prayer

### Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## Announcements and Welcome

Additional announcements and other Trinity information are available in the weekly newsletter entitled "Trinity News" that can be found on [trinitypeoria.com](http://trinitypeoria.com)

Guests and visitors, thank you for worshiping with the family of God at Trinity. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Trinity please call, text, or email Pastor Synnott at (713) 302-6908, [pastorsynnott@trinitypeoria.com](mailto:pastorsynnott@trinitypeoria.com).

## Offering



Your offering can be put in the drop boxes near the sanctuary exits.

You can also make your gift to the church through Trinity's app, Trinity Peoria, which can be downloaded through Google Play and iTunes. Download the app and follow the directions under the [GIVE](#) button.



## Postlude

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# Weekly Trinity Prayer Sheet



## **Submitting Prayer Requests**

Call, text, or email Pastor Nelson (309) 453-7231; [pastornelson@trinitypeoria.com](mailto:pastornelson@trinitypeoria.com)





**MERRY**  
*Christmas*

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**Christmas Eve Services:** Three evening services Sunday, Dec. 24.

- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol
- 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight with Holy Communion

**Christmas Day Service with Communion:** 10: 00 a.m.

**Traditional Weekend Worship:** 6:00 p.m. Dec. 30, with communion;  
8:00 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.