

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Trinity Lutheran Church

December 24, 2023
Pleasant Valley, Iowa

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."



Gathering and Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness

that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways

for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 254 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

As we watch for Messiah, let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. and banish all our fears.

Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: ELW 240– Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – v. 1-4

Prayer of the day: *see insert*

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *see insert*

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm Luke 1:46b-55 *See insert*

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 *see insert*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

At the end of the reading:

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

Sermon-Pastor Stephen Nilsen

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 263 – Savior of the Nations, Come

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Each petition will end with:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Announcements and Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Meal

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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



heav'n 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.

Words of Institution

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

All are welcome to the table of the Lord.

ELW Page 154: Lamb of God

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 257 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 267 – Joy to the World

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep Awake.

Thanks be to God.

We hope to have you join us for the special Christmas Eve Service tonight at 7:00 PM. Merry Christmas to all!

Christmas BLESSINGS



Serving for Christmas Eve - 7 PM

Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Pianist	Laura Crumbleholme
Lector	Claudia Neumann
Communion Assistant	Claudia Neumann
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes
Ushers	Tom & Mary Shelton
Fellowship	No Fellowship. Merry Christmas!

Serving next week - December 31 at 9 AM

Presiding	Dane Crist
Preaching	A Sermon from Bishop Amy Current
Pianist	Laura Crumbleholme
Lector	Justin Paul
Ushers	Al McIlrath
	Judy Rutledge
Fellowship	Tom & Mary Shelton

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS	January 2	Education	2:30 PM
	January 2	Worship & Music	4:30 PM
	January 4	Property	11:00 AM

OFFICE CLOSED Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. Enjoy the holidays.

PASTOR STEPHEN OUT OF OFFICE through January 1. If there is an emergency call the office and leave a message.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Join our weekly Bible Study Wednesday's at 10:00 AM We will take the week off between Christmas and New Year. Hope join in the new year.

TLC T-SHIRTS ORDERS AVAILABLE Stop by the table in the narthex to order one of our new powder blue t-shirts to help make Trinity more visible in our community! Or you can order online at <https://bit.ly/TLCPV-tshirts>

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT TLC Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 7:00 PM.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready and in the Narthex to be picked up.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due by the end of the year. Please send your report to Paula via email at office@trinitylcpv.com

CABIN FEVER RELIEVER *Saturday, January 13 at 5:00 PM.* Join us for board games and cards! Bring some of your favorites for an evening of fun and fellowship! We would love you to bring your favorite hot dish or desert.

Thank you to all who serve this day:

Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Pianist	Laura Crumbleholme
Lector	Justin Paul
Communion Assistant	Carol Kaufmann
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes
Ushers	Diane Cook
	Connie Short
Fellowship	No Fellowship. Merry Christmas!

Trinity Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9AM-1PM

Pastor Stephen's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM

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