

**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT
1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025**



OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

WELCOME

Lector Good Morning. My name is Gene Luff.
A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are gathering at BT@R for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Today we observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Everything you need to follow along with the worship service can be found in your bulletin. Please join us for fellowship following the gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*
– Robert Lau (b.1943)

The assembly stands as they are able.

GATHERING WORDS

Leader God of time and eternity,
help us realize the significance of these moments together,
that they may open our eyes
to the blessings of the past
and the promise of the future.
Grant us courage for today and tomorrow.
Blessed be.

Assembly sings all stanzas.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
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LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The Assembly may be seated.

Leader The first Advent candle represents our call to hope. The second Advent candle represents our call to peace. The third candle represents our call to joy. Today we light the fourth Advent candle, which represents our call to love. This candle is a symbol of God's love, revealed in the baby Jesus. It is a symbol of God's love, which is alive in each of us today.

Assembly **O God of Love, your love is present everywhere, and your purpose is revealed in love. We are called to be your people of love. Help us to love one another. Help us to show love to all the world.**

GATHERING HYMN Hymnal 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



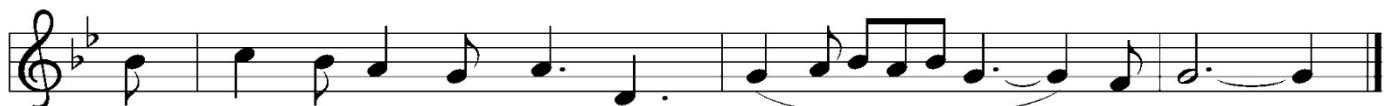
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Glo - ri - a!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor We pray: Now is the moment of magic, when candles are kindled and clear voices whisper secret music.

So here's a blessing:

it is the warmth of summer love that enables us to overcome the barriers we place around ourselves, and love that strengthens us to take risks.

And here's another blessing:

we already possess all the gifts we need,
we've already received our presents:
ears to hear music,
eyes to behold lights,
hands to build true peace on earth
and to hold each other tight in love.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

The assembly may be seated for the readings.

A READING Isaiah 7:10-16

Lector A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ 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.”

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

Assembly Thanks be to God.

ROCK BOTTOM

It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand. It stops us from taking anything for granted.

PSALMODY Psalm 80 Michel Guimont

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
Shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

2 God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

3 May your hand be on the one you have chosen, the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Lector A reading from the world around us
 From the Mystics: *You are Christ's Hands*
 by Teresa of Avila.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless all now.

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others,
open my ears that I may hear their cries;
open my heart so that they need not be without succor;
let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use me to bring them to those places.
And so, open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day
be able to do some work of peace for thee.

ANOTHER READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

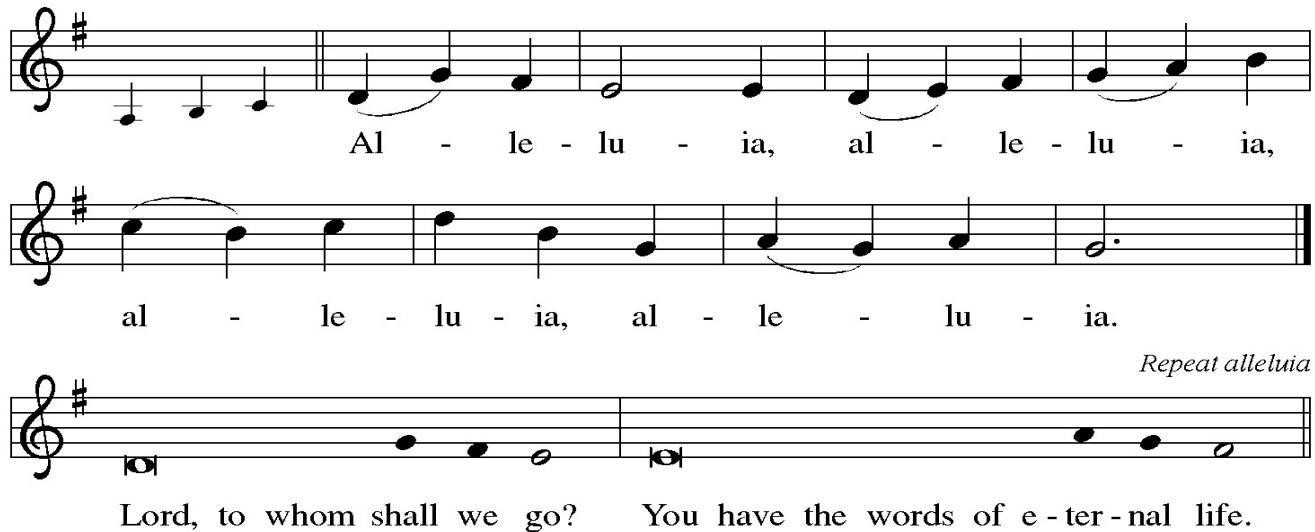
Leader Another reading from the world around us:

 *The Magnificat (Latin for "[My soul] magnifies [the Lord]") is a canticle, also known as the Song of Mary, the Canticle of Mary. It is one of the eight most ancient Christian hymns and perhaps the earliest Marian hymn. The text of the canticle is taken directly from the Gospel of Luke (1:46–55) where it is spoken by Mary upon the occasion of her Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. In the narrative, after Mary greets Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist, the latter moves within Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth praises Mary for her faith and Mary responds with what is now known as the Magnificat.*

Mary's Song *the Magnificat*

Leader And Mary said:
“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Reading from the Holy Gospel + as written to us by Matthew.

¹⁸ 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

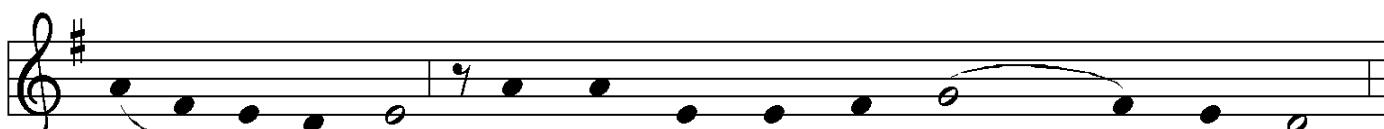
The assembly stands as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY Hymnal 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

The assembly may sit or kneel for prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING *The offering plates are at the front and back entrances.*

Use your phone's camera to scan this code
to give a gift to Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
and to view our website and social media sites.



Leader For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us.

Assembly Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *People, Look East* – French carol, c. 17th century arranged by Phillip Dietterich (b. 1931)

THE OFFERTORY HYMN Hymnal 253

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Assembly Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor God's hope is in us.
 Lift up your hearts.

Assembly We lift them up to God.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Pastor O God, Mystery of winter skies, we look for you in these shorter days for opening our eyes to see your beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering your word to take our mortal flesh. Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared the way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love. Now we take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor On 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.

THE OUR FATHER

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

Assembly **God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

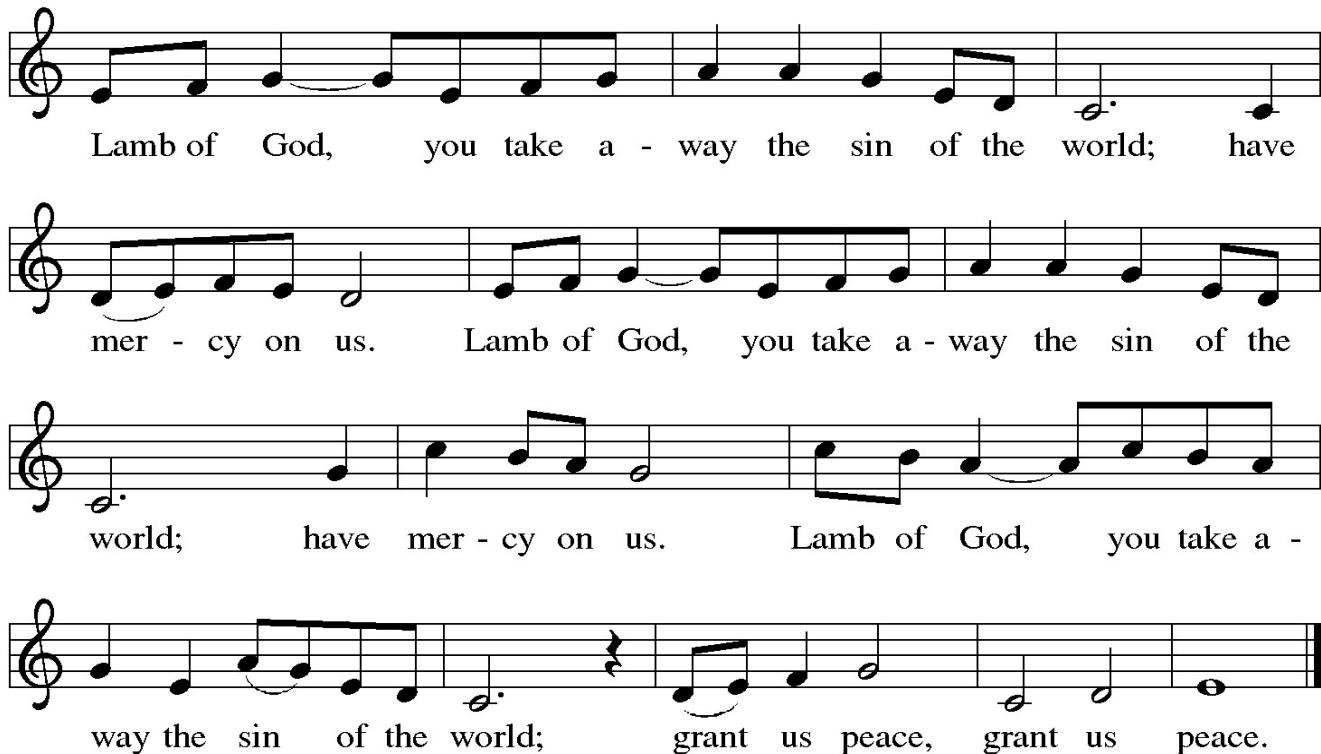
THE INVITATION

Pastor Come to this table of grace. Here there are no barriers, no requirements, no tests of worthiness. No matter your faith, your doubts, or your background – all are welcome, all are loved, all are fed. Come, taste and see the goodness of God.

ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE BREAD AND WINE

All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine. There are gluten free wafers; ask the Pastor or Communion Assistants to provide one to you. A chalice of wine will be offered to you - simply touch the wafer to the wine. If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward simply let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Savior of the Nations, Come – Hymnal 263

Creator of the Stars of Night – Hymnal 245

The assembly may stand as they are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader Let us pray; Most loving God, we are thankful for all we have shared around this table of love.

**Assembly We are thankful that through faith, hope will overcome doubt,
love will overcome fear, and light will overcome darkness.
May the blessing of light be on us:
light without and light within. Amen.**



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PARTING WORDS

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.
So go and travel with the God
who is found in ordinary and surprising places.
And may the quality of our lives be our benediction
and a blessing to all whom we touch.

The Altar Candles and Care Candle are extinguished.

SENDING HYMN Hymnal 267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor Go and may God's blessings, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
go with you + and remain with you always.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

Thank you for worshiping with us at BT@R today.
We are grateful for your presence and pray that you were blessed
by the service.

Today's Altar Flowers and bulletins are gifts given by Richard Romig
in loving memory of his parents and grandparents.

Last Sunday's Altar Flowers were a gift given by Carol Lopez
in memory of loved ones.

Last Sunday's Bulletins were a gift given by Edwina Monek
in loving memory of her mother Gloria.



FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.

You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend



Use your phone's camera to scan this code
for upcoming events at
Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont.



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GOD'S POWER

We live in a world which has become too complex to unravel; there is nothing we can do about it, we little people who don't have big government posts or positions of importance. But I believe that the Kingdom is built on the little things that all of us do. I remember my grandmother was fond of reciting:

**Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.**

A single drop can't make even a puddle, but together, all our little drops and God's planning can make not only a mighty ocean but a mighty difference.

