

*The desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice  
with joy and singing:  
Isaiah 35:1-2*



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE

## “EXPECTATIONS”

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 IN THE SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE

“EXPECTATIONS”

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

**AS WE GATHER** In the Psalms we often read, "praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song." Why do you think that **singing** to our God is so often mentioned in the Bible? Could it be that the beauty of the singing voice—and the extra effort it takes to rehearse and sing well—result in a special form of honor and praise that our loving God truly deserves? So today may the singing and the ringing you hear fill your hearts with joy and thankfulness to our God who sent His only Son to be our Savior.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Biery*

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Weber*

*JuBellation Handbells—*

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Moklebust*

*JuBellation Handbells—*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*Helman*

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

“Call to Advent”

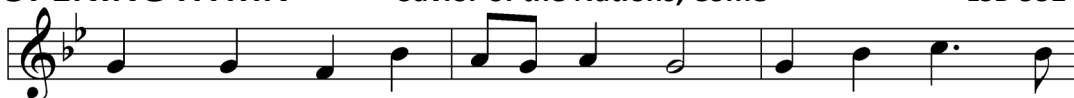
*Williams*

*Sanctuary Choir*

**OPENING HYMN**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*LSB 332*



*Choir:* 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
*ALL:* 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
*Women:* 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
*Men:* 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

**ALL: 5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.**

*Choir: 6. For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.*

**ALL: 7. From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

**ALL: △ 8. Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

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## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, be with Your servants who make art and music for Your people that with joy we on earth may glimpse Your beauty. Bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection that will be ours as we stand before Your unveiled glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

"Psalm 98"

arr. Hopson

(Note: The Sanctuary Choir sings the verses; the congregation sings the Refrain each time.)

**Refrain (ALL):** Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord, for God has done marvelous things!  
Through God's right hand and holy arm salvation comes. *(Refrain)*
2. The Lord has made known the victory, God's justice has come to all  
O Israel, shout your praise, remember God's love and power. *(Refrain)*
3. O sing to the Lord with joy, break forth into songs of praise.  
Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. *(Refrain)*
4. With trumpet and with the sound of the horn Give praise to the Lord.  
Let the sea and all its creatures thunder, the land, and all its people. *(Refrain)*
5. Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills ring with joy Before the Lord.  
God comes to judge and to rule with righteousness,  
And to bring truth to all the earth. *(Refrain)*

## EPISTLE

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer

waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Messiah Suite”  
*Sanctuary Choir*

*Handel/Fettke*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 11:2-15*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

## SERMON

"Expectations"

Rev. James L. Mayland

## CHORAL RESPONSE

"Jesus, the Son of Mary"

Owens

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING "The Christmas Angels" Helman; JuBellation Handbells

## 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 worshipped 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(After each petition, the following is said...)*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- C** 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.

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PAX DOMINI

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

**G** Amen.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord’s Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior’s body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *LSB 621*  
“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” *LSB 375*

## DISMISSAL AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT


**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## CHORAL BENEDICTION *(Please be seated.)*

*Sanctuary Choir—* “May the Peace of the Lord” *Wagner*

**CLOSING HYMN** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *LSB 341, sts.1,3,5*



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to





King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
 rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -

near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly

va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text and tune: Public domain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*Biery*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Peter C. Williamson, Associate Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Rod Riese*

MUSICIANS: *Sanctuary Choir, Rod Riese, director;*

*JuBellation Handbells, Rod Riese, director;*

*Soloists: Glenn Marquardt, Dawn Graveen, Jody Seybold*

ELDERS: 7:30am—*Bob Zimmerman, Bob Moser; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Jeff Kelm*

ACOLYTES: 7:30am—*Callie Laessig*

## WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

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**TRADITIONAL/BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—**  
7:30am & 9am Sunday  
**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—**  
5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

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- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

### Automated Giving Options



### MISSION & VISION STATEMENT:

*Teach the Faith—Love the Lost—Connect all to Christ*



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