



**DECEMBER 20, 2009 ☩ 10:30 A.M.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before the liturgy begins.

* – those who are able may **stand**

Bold – all

This bulletin is available in large print

To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshipping with us. We have a nursery available and it is open from 8:15 – 11:30 a.m. Please use the garden entrance (on Addison); the nursery is right inside the door. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to walk to the narthex/back of the church.

GATHERING

The ringing of the meditation bowl calls us to silence, centering and reflection as we prepare for the liturgy.

PRELUDE – *Savior of the nations, come*

Johann Gottfried Walther

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Following an invitation, silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
and against our sisters and brothers.
Our words and deeds have not proclaimed
your reign of justice and truth.
We have failed to watch and pray
for the signs of your advent among us.
Forgive our sin,
and come quickly to save us.
Amen.**

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

Face the cross as it enters; you may bow as the cross passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation.

**HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**1) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh;
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.**

Refrain

**2) O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Refrain

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH*

** GATHERING HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**3) O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Refrain

**4) 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

Men:

**5) 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

Women:

**6) O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.**

Refrain

**7) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Koln, 1710; tr. Composite
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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The presiding minister bows toward the assembly which is the body of Christ and the primary symbol of God's presence in the liturgy.

And also with you.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY*

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2–5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: *Luke 1:46b–55*

The refrain is sung by the choir and repeated by the assembly. Verses are sung by the choir.

Refrain:

Carl F. Schalk

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my—
spir-it re-joic-es in God my Sav-ior.

For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in ev'ry generation.

Refrain

He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

Refrain

He has come to the help of this servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Refrain

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.

Refrain

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5–10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand to welcome the gospel and turn to face the book as the gospel is read in the midst of the assembly.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John Ferguson

Sung by the choir then repeated by the assembly.



Here I am, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*GOSPEL: Luke 1:39–45

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

As the gospel is announced you may trace a small cross on your forehead, lips and breast, a prayer that the Word may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(sung as above) – **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SERMON

SILENCE

HYMN OF THE DAY – #258 *Unexpected and Mysterious*

*NICENE CREED

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; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

...let us pray.

Come, Lord Jesus.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS AND SETTING THE TABLE

Guests are invited to fill out the yellow slip and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY HYMN – #263 Savior of the Nations, Come

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

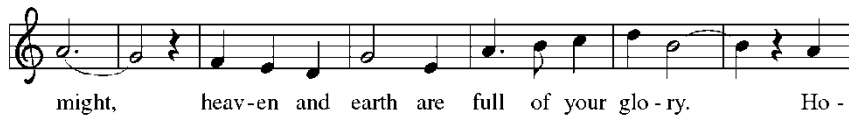
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

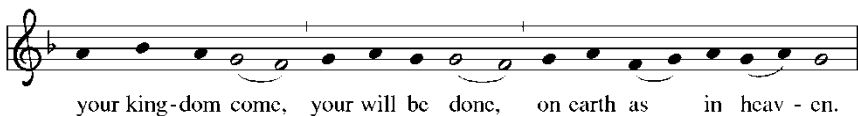
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The following acclamations are sung during the thanksgiving.



As a sign of openness to the divine presence, you may join the presider in praying the Our Father with the ancient gesture of extended hands.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

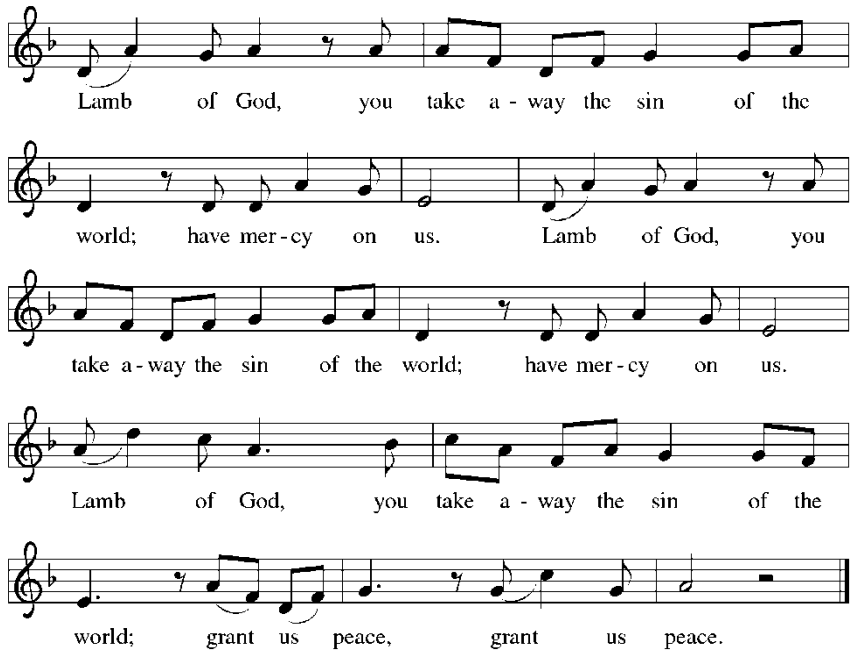




Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*COMMUNION

*LAMB OF GOD



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.

Be seated.

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Others may come forward for a blessing. Communion will be by continuous line, and the bread will be placed in your hand (gluten-free wafers available from the pastor). The first (silver) chalice on each side is a common cup for drinking. The second chalice is for intinction (dipping the bread into the wine). Reception of the eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.

COMMUNION MUSIC – *Ave Maria*

Franz Schubert

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Ave Maria benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus fructus ventri tui Jesus.
Sancta Maria ora pro nobis.
Ave Maria.

*Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you,
Hail Mary, blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
Hail, Mary!*

*PRAYER

SENDING

*BLESSING

Turn to face the cross as it recesses, you may bow as it passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation

*SENDING HYMN – #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

*SENDING

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be God.

POSTLUDE – *Veni, Emmanuel*

Robert J. Powell

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SERVING TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER: Pr. Michelle L. Miller
PREACHING MINISTER: Pr. Craig M. Mueller
MINISTER OF MUSIC: David R. Brackley
ASSISTING MINISTER: Joel Cruz
CRUCIFER: Lydia Kanthak
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Michael Schnell and James Perez
READERS: Ben Stewart and Colleen Hanna
MEDITATION BELL: Claire Evans
USHERS: Pete Hillman and Michael Thompson
GREETER: Scott and Dia Johnson
SACRISTAN: Jon Skogen
ALTAR PREPARATION: Amy Rouce
NURSERY ASSISTANT: Travis Paul
COFFEE HOSPITALITY: Amy Rouce, Mark Avery, and Thrivent representatives

PARISH NOTES

OUR SOCIAL TIME refreshments today are provided by Thrivent Financial

Lutherans, a faith-based, not-for-profit membership organization with nearly 2.6 million members. Two representatives from Thrivent will make brief remarks during social time and will be available for questions and conversation.

ANNOUNCING NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY

If you are free during the day you are invited to participate in a scripture study of Luke, the gospel read in worship this year. Pastor Mueller will be leading the sessions which will be held Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 14, 2010. There will be approximately 14 sessions but the schedule is flexible and we will cancel on days on days with snow or extreme cold. An optional "resource book" is available for \$20. You can browse a copy and/or sign-up at the back of the church. Feel free to talk to Pastor Mueller if you have any questions or concerns.

FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR! See the flower sign-up sheet at the back of the church and write a check to Holy Trinity for \$32 with "flowers" in the memo line or give through our online giving found at our website.

NEXT BAPTISM DATE: January 10, 2010. See information brochure in the narthex.

NEXT NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION DATES: January 31, April 18, 2010. More info at our website: www.holytrinitychicago.org

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

*** NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE December 23 ***

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, Thursday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist (especially for families with young children)

10:30 p.m. The Christ Mass (Festival Eucharist)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

One service at 10:30 a.m.

No 8:30 a.m. service, Sunday School or Sunday Forum

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00 p.m. Carol Sing and Simple Eucharist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

8:30 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Forum

10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist with Lessons and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany



SPONSOR POINSETTIAS AND GREENS

We are in need!

Sponsor the greens and poinsettias that will decorate our church at Christmas in honor or in memory of a friend or relative. Please make a check or envelope earmarked Christmas Greens in the amount of:

\$20.00, \$30.00, or \$50.00.

Donations can also be made online at our website (holytrinitychicago.org), just click on “Donate Now”.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Donor's name _____

All donations must be received by TODAY



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Craig M. Mueller, Pastor
Michelle L. Miller, Associate Pastor
David R. Brackley, Minister of Music
Joshua R. Judd-Herzfeldt, Administrator

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Pr. Michelle Miller E-Mail: mmiller@htchicago.org

Web Page: www.holytrinitychicago.org

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
Wed., 1 – 8 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity! Wherever you are in your spiritual life and/or in your process of being comfortable in church or finding a church home, you are welcome here!

PARKING is available at McDonald's, Clark and Addison, on Sunday mornings when you are unable to find street parking. Please use the spaces in the southwest corner (near Addison and the alley). Pick up a permit at the back of Holy Trinity that you can keep in your car. Please do not use the lot on days of Cubs home games or you will be towed. (383 neighborhood parking permits are only needed from 6 pm – 6 am.)

Podcast of last week's sermon is available on our website.

Interested in membership? We would be delighted to have you join our community of faith in worship and ministry. New member orientation sessions are held throughout the year. Watch the bulletin or see our website for more information.

Silence. In addition to words and music our liturgy has several periods of silence. The resonance of the meditation bell calls us to a time of reflection and centering.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Adults or children not communing may come forward for a blessing.

The Spiritual Life Center has offices at Holy Trinity, offering counseling and spiritual direction. Brochures are available at the back of the church.