

## First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

### Welcome

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made!

**C** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self examination*

**P** Long-expected God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. **Amen.**

**P** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn (*next page*)

### ***Shine, Jesus, Shine***

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Chorus:*

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, River, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Repeat Chorus*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness, so our faces display Your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Repeat Chorus*

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray together. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### The Peace *able*

*Please stand as you are*

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

**C And also with you.**

### First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

*Please be seated*

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

....*The Word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 122**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

<sup>2</sup>**Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

<sup>4</sup>**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.”

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**Second Reading    *Romans 13:11-14***

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

....*The Word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Verse**

*Please stand as you are*

*able*

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.***

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.*

*(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.*

**Gospel    *Matthew 24:36-44***

Jesus said to the disciples “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

*...The Gospel of the Lord*  
*(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.*

Youth Time - Lighting of the Hope Candle

*Please be seated*

***Light One Candle***

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

Choir Anthem      ***Light the Advent Candle***

Sermon

Hymn of the Day  
*able*

*Please stand as you are*

The Apostles' Creed

**A** Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

**A** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Ministry, as we serve our neighbors in love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for all first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda, Ralph, and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture caregivers in their care for others.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God 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:

*(sung):* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

### The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

*{P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.}*

### Communion Song

*Please be seated*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Communion: The usher will direct your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. We believe Christ is present in the Sacrament; come join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.*

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

### Post-Communion Blessing

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

**A** Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### Blessing

**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. **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

*Please stand as you are able*

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune



### Dismissal

**A** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical elements: Sundays & Seasons, Augsburg Fortress-License No. SAS026761

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

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Music Minister: Don Grabau

Media Minister: Jeff Ward

Today's Worship Assistant: Lanny Repman

Today's Prayer Partner: Lanny Repman

Ushers: Judy Menz and Nancy Repman

### **Prayers and Announcements**

#### **Prayers**

**Welcome:** We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

**Prayer Partner Ministry:** If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the altar following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's partner is Lanny Repman.

**Offering:** Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly), which can be accessed through TOL's website ([www.trinityoldlutheran.com](http://www.trinityoldlutheran.com)) or on your smartphone.

**Mission for November:** The Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, which brings people, resources and organizations together to improve the quality of life for those who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. Thank you for your donations to this important organization.

**Hanging of the Greens:** Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church sanctuary so beautifully for the Christmas Season!

**Grief Support Meeting at TOL:** The next meeting for those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild will be this **Tuesday, December 2 at 10 am.**

**Augustana Book Club:** November/December's book is Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. All are invited this **Thursday, December 4** at 6:30 pm to discuss!

**Bible Study at Augustana:** Pastor Fred is having a bible study on the book of Jonah, on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. at Augustana, on the following **Fridays: December 5, 12 and 19**. All are welcome to join for one or all of the sessions.

**Combined Worship at Good Shepherd:** Please join us at Good Shepherd **next Sunday, December 7 at 10 am** for a special Christmas Program. **Please note that there will not be a service at TOL next Sunday.**

**Adult Education Fall 2025 through Spring 2026:** The classes begin at **1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. The focus will be Places and Writings of the Early Followers of Jesus, led by Charlie Schmidtke: The next two classes are as follows.

**Monday, Dec. 8**                      Infancy Gospels (Thomas and Syriac)

**Monday, Jan. 19**                     Gospel of James

**Women's Luncheon Group:** We will meet on **Thursday, December 11** at Dandelion's, 1340 North Forest, Williamsville. If you need a ride, please contact Judy Menz at 716-435-6077 or Barb Maugans at 716-692-8116. All are invited!

**Coming Soon to TOL:** On **Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 pm**, Barb Yendall's chorus – the Niagara Frontier Chord Authority – will present "Singing in the Season." Join us here at TOL for an evening of a cappella harmony, along with gift baskets raffle, mystery gift card tree and a 50/50. Free refreshments will be served while we mingle and the raffle winners are drawn. Admission is \$10 – children 10 and under are free. The singers are proud members of Harmony, Inc., an international organization of choruses and quartets. Please visit their website at [nfc.harmony.org](http://nfc.harmony.org). See Barb for tickets; they can also be purchased at the door.

**Annual Budget Meeting:** Following worship on **Sunday, December 14**, there will be a brief congregational meeting to elect council members for 2026 and to approve the 2026 budget.

**Sermon Discussion/input:** The discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons continues on **Wednesday, December 17** in the Fireside Lounge, at noon for two hours.

**Friends of Night People:** To help keep their clients warm during the upcoming cold weather, they are asking for donations of blankets, sleeping bags, hoodies, jackets, hats and gloves. Please bring your clean used or new items; they will be delivered to Friends of Night People, along with the sandwiches, each week. Thank you.

**Book and Puzzle Sale:** Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Books and puzzles are always being added, and are available for a fraction of the cost at retail. No cost for the greeting cards available. Proceeds are used for church building interior improvements, such as carpeting, door mats, etc.

**We continue to collect for these ministries:**

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – box in narthex.
- Dash's Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – box in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Sandwich Team ministry.
- Warm clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Items for Operation Christmas Child boxes.
- Calendars for 2026 for Veterans Hospital.

Thank you for your contributions and generosity!

***This week's calendar***

|   |       |       |                                       |   |
|---|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon. For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i> | Sun   | 11/30 | 9:30 am<br>11 am<br>3:30 pm<br>7 pm   | Worship Service at Augustana<br>Worship Service at TOL<br>Abiding Faith Worship<br>GA Meeting |
|   | Mon   | 12/1  | 10 am<br>5:45 pm                      | OA Meeting<br>Yoga<br>Sandwich Team #1  |
|   | Tues  | 12/2  | 10 am<br>5:45 pm<br>7:30 pm           | Grief Support Meeting<br>Chair Yoga<br>CoDA   |
|   | Wed   | 12/3  | 5:45 pm                               | Yoga  |
|   | Thurs | 12/4  | 9:30 am<br>5:45 pm<br>6:30 pm<br>7 pm | Yoga<br>Yoga<br>Book Club at Augustana<br>GA Meeting  |
|   | Fri   | 12/5  | 10 am<br>11 am                        | Bible Study at Augustana<br>Pr. Sohail's South Asian community                                |
|   | Sat   | 12/6  | 2 pm                                  | Abiding Faith Christmas Program   |
|   | Sun   | 12/7  | 10 am<br>3:30 pm<br>7 pm              | Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran<br>Abiding Faith Worship<br>GA Meeting                      |

**Announcements:** If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to [trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com) or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning.

**TOL's Free WiFi and Password:**  
N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

