



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

527 Washington Street
Reading, PA 19601
(610) 374-4861
www.trinityreading.org

+ + +

Masks are welcomed,
but no longer required.

Vaccinations are highly
recommended.

Please maintain
appropriate distancing
between households and
use hand sanitizer.

+ + +

All are invited to join us at
the Lord's table for Holy
Communion.

+ + +

Our AED machine is
mounted on the wall in
the stairway near the
baptismal font.

+ + +

Please silence your
cell phone.



Trinity Lutheran Church
is recognized by
Reconciling Works as a
"Reconciling in Christ"
Congregation which
welcomes all LGBTQ+
persons into all facets of
congregational life.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

DECEMBER 4, 2022

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Congregational words are in bold print.

WELCOME

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

David Himes, shruti box Peter Graf, recorder

The choir and congregation sing both stanzas together.



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Please kneel or remain seated.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen

Please stand in body or spirit.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

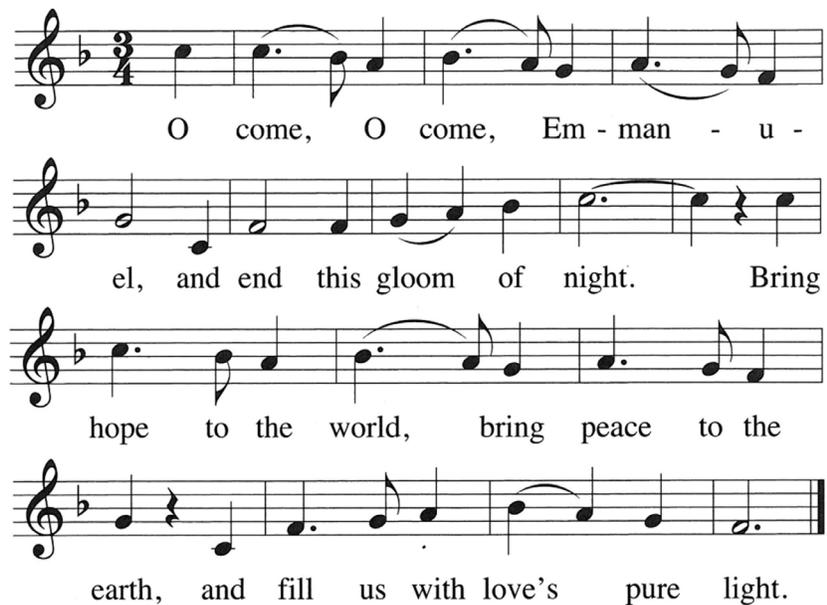
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sandra Sittler, piano Peter Graf and David Himes, handbells

Choral introduction

*Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, Savior of all, hear thy servants when they call.*

Refrain: Choir and Congregation



O come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
hope to the world, bring peace to the
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

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In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

Candle lighting: The Norton-Ritz Family

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace.

This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace,

and that only through trust in God's word and his promises can we find our own inner peace.

We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts

of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout

the world.

Choir and Congregation repeats the refrain (page 4)

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

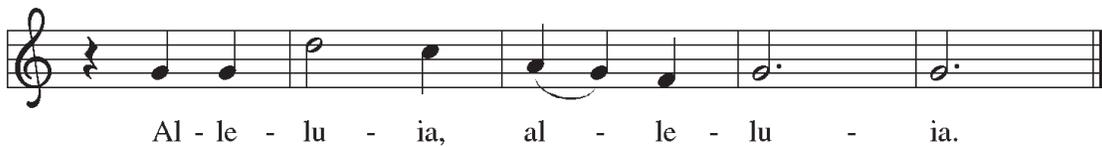
After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 241- Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Stanza 3: Mixed Ensemble and Trinity Brass

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are?

2 I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.

3 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.

4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,

Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!

I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.

Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.

who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.

Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast

A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high

Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace

All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,

to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Please kneel or be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns
for new hope.

*Following the introduction, the choir sings the response. After each petition, the congregation joins in singing
the response after the words "God, in your mercy..."*



(Advent) Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.
Text: Traditional
Music: Ryan Hostler © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

After the final petition:

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them
with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Please stand in body or spirit.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

Antiphonal for Advent

Joel Raney

The Mixed Ensemble

Sandra Sittler, piano Peter Graf & David Himes, handbells

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, good news and joyful tidings tell.
All heaven and nature sing. Let earth receive her King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Let the bells ring out, let the whole world shout, "O come, Emmanuel, come!"
Come and fill the earth with light. Come and reign in our hearts forever.
Chase away the gloom of night. Come, Emmanuel, Rejoice!
Make war and strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heavenly peace.
All heaven and nature sing. Let earth receive her King!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Let the bells ring out, let the whole world shout, "O come, Emmanuel, come!"*

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Eternal God,
**you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread and wine,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen**

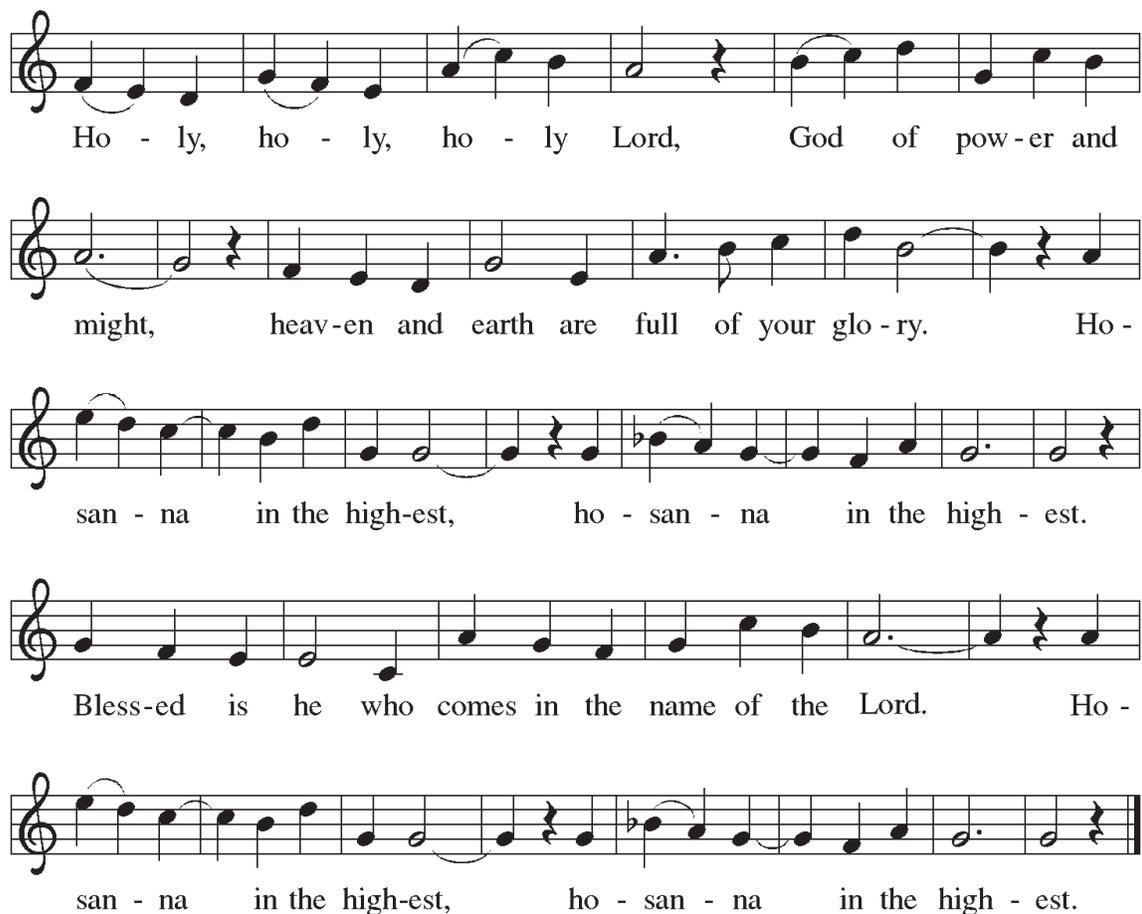
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end....Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Be seated.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Following the direction of the usher, approach the altar, maintaining a safe distance between households. Please ask your server if you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer grape juice. As you return to your seat, place your empty glass in the corner tray. Those not partaking of communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to approach the altar for communion, inform the usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION - Creator of the Stars of Night

Joshua Motley, soloist

see ELW 245 for text

After all have received Communion, please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN - ELW 249 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry - see page 14

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

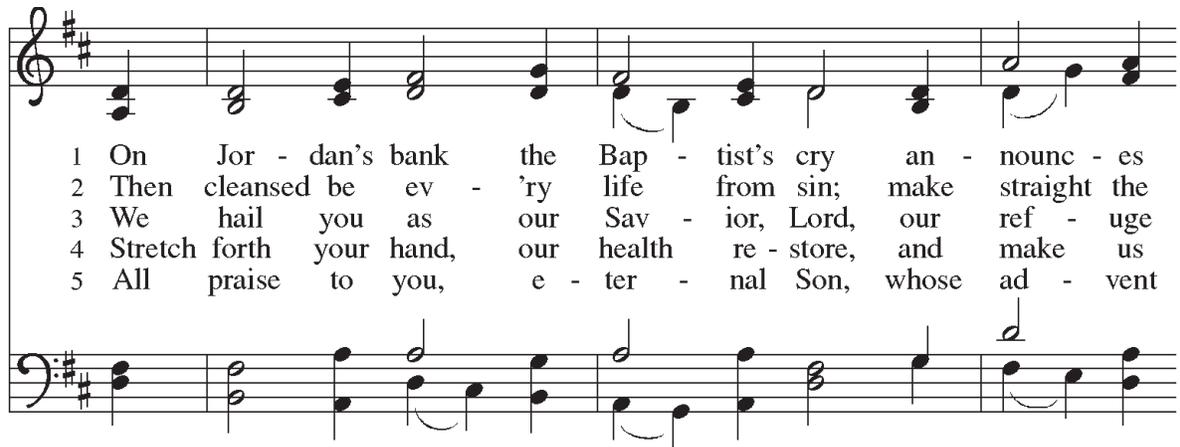
POSTLUDE

Wie Soll Ich Dich Empfangen

Trinity Brass

✠ ✠ ✠

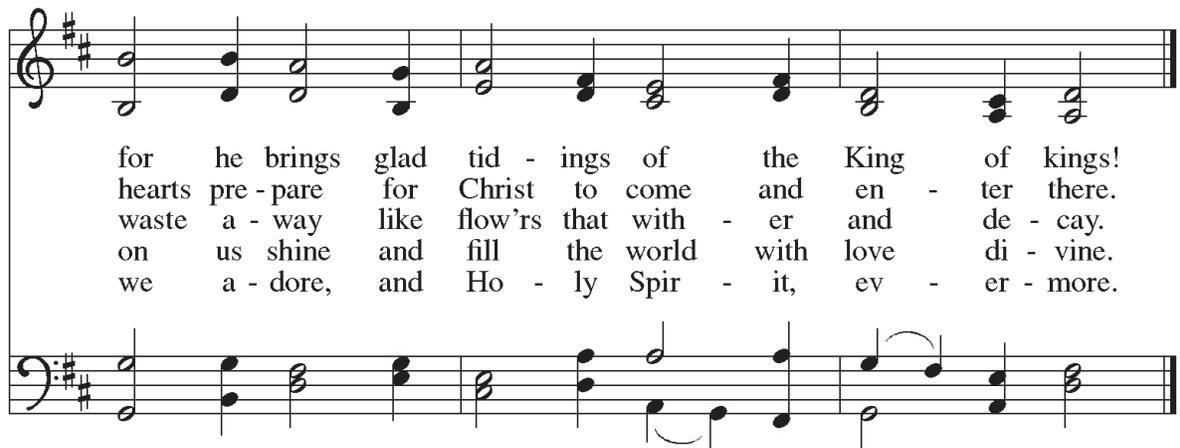
SENDING HYMN - ELW 249 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Leaders in Today's Liturgy: December 4, 2022 - Advent 2

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Virginia Biniek

Assisting Minister: Hannah Long

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Cantor: Joshua Motley

Lector: Annie Harlin

Greeter: Anita Dolak

Ushers: Jeff & Pam Wasmuth

Communion Assistant: Annie Harlin

Altar Guild: Michael Faust, Linda Grim, Doris Strobel, Amy Litvinov and Erica Hofmann

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Amy Litvinov in honor of Anna Litvinov's birthday

We thank Peter Graf, David Himes, and Amy Stewart-Himes for planning today's worship

We thank the Trinity Brass for their part in today's worship



Immediate prayer requests: Bishop Christopher deForest, Marian Jameson, Jim Hofmann (brother of Steve Hofmann), Cathy Manning, Harry Feinauer, Rick Chaveas, Leonard Smith (father of Andrew Smith), Linda Liptak (sister of Dick Horst and Robin Oberholtzer), Amy Reinsel, and Raye Watson

Ongoing prayer requests: Christopher Drayer, Darryl Jeffries, Dar Unger, Luther Route, Nathan Hudson (son-in-law of Anita Dolak), Walter Maier, JT Motley, David Strobel, John Matern (father of Deaconess Deborah), Ruth Adam (friend of Graf family), Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Doris (friend of Pat McMahan), Dick Evans, Ed Harlin, Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), the Sawyer family, Walter Schur, and David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), and John Kirby

Trinity households in prayer: Jon Mosbo; Josh, Christine, Jacinda & Cecilia Motley; Linda Motley; Ben, McKenzie, Cobi & Christian Motley; and Chris & Rodger Mountz, Jr.

Prepare for Worship December 11 - Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Congregational Meeting to approve next year's budget will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, December 18.

The Trinity multi-generational Christmas orchestra is back! We WILL be playing this Christmas Eve at the 5:00 PM service. David Himes makes parts for every instrument, for beginners and advanced players alike. There are only three rehearsals on 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18 from 9:00 to 9:30 AM up in the choir loft. Hope to see you there!

Next week's Sunday Forum - What's the Story? Every Christmas Carol has a story. Come learn about the history of beloved hymns and carols. (Maybe we will sing. Maybe not.)

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 4: Advent 2

- 9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (Auditorium)
- 9:00 AM: Christmas Orchestra (Choir Loft)
- 10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
- 11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble (Bard House)
- 2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Monday, December 5

- 9:45 AM: Program Staff Meeting
- 6:00 PM: Community Yoga Class (Auditorium)

Tuesday, December 6

- 9:30 AM: Full Staff Meeting
- 6:30 PM: Trinity Serves at Opportunity House

Wednesday, December 7

- 6:30 PM: Trinity Ringers (Nave)
- 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal (Hintz Room)

Sunday, December 11: Advent 3

- 9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (Auditorium)
- 9:00 AM: Christmas Orchestra (Choir Loft)
- 10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
- 11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble (Bard House)
- 2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Broadcast Schedule for December

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190, Reading Hospital Channel 80, online at www.trinityreading.org, on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.

Sundays

- 6:00 PM World Views:
 - Contemporary Paganism
- 6:30 PM Music From Trinity:
 - Centre Park Flutes
- 7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

- 4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service
- 5:00 PM Music From Trinity:
 - Centre Park Flutes
- 5:30 PM World Views:
 - Contemporary Paganism

Church office hours are 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

Choral Concert at Albright: You are invited to "Carols by Candlelight," a choral concert by the choirs of Albright College. The free concert will be held **in Memorial Chapel at 7:30 PM on Saturday, December 10**. Karen Eddinger is a collaborative pianist with two of the ensembles.

Handel's Messiah: Reading Choral Society Concert December 4 and Community Sing December 18
The December 4 concert is at 4:00 PM at the Boyertown High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Order tickets online at www.readingchoral.org or call the RCS office at 610-898-1939. **The December 18 Community Sing** is at 4:00 PM at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 1001 E. Wyomissing Blvd. Reading, 19611. Bring your own score or borrow one at the sing. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10 dollars.

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