



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

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January 5, 2025

*Second Sunday in Christmas*

### **Announcements**

**Juice boxes** are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

### **Coming Up**

**Annual Congregational Meeting** - Trinity's Congregational Council has set February 9, 2025, as the date for the next ACM. The meeting will follow the worship service and will include a potluck meal. The Annual Report will be available at the end of January. While all are welcome to attend the meeting, only active members can vote on any matters.

### **We Remember in our Prayers**

**In Residence:** Cordelle

**Members:** Bunny, Donna, Ed, Edda, Joan, Susan. Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

**Friends & Family:** Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

**Thames Area Clergy:** Rev. Chris Krejlgaard, Trinity/Windsor

### **Introduction to the day**

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

## Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW # 242 Awake! Awake, and greet  
the new morn

ELW #269 Once in royal David's city

ELW #283 O Come, all ye faithful

## Prayer of the day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace, empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN**

## First reading Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor,  
together;  
a great company, they shall return here.



<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord,  
O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and  
the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered  
garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice  
in the dance,  
and the young men and the old  
shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them  
gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of  
fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied  
with my bounty, says the Lord

**Psalm: 147: 12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the  
bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children  
within you.**  
<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your  
borders  
and satisfies you with the finest  
wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to  
the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread  
crumbs.**  
**Who can stand against God's  
cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord sends forth the word and  
melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters  
flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to  
Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to  
any other nation;  
they do not know God's  
judgments. Hallelujah!

**Second reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us  
in Christ with every spiritual blessing in  
the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose  
us in Christ before the foundation of the  
world to be holy and blameless before  
him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for  
adoption as his children through Jesus  
Christ, according to the good pleasure of  
his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious  
grace that he freely bestowed on us in  
the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have  
redemption through his blood, the  
forgiveness of our trespasses, according  
to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he  
lavished on us. With all wisdom and  
insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the  
mystery of his will, according to his good  
pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as  
a plan for the fullness of time, to gather  
up all things in him, things in heaven  
and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have  
also obtained an inheritance, having



been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

### **Gospel: John 1:1--18**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **Sermon**

#### **Reflecting light**

*May God's grace be felt in your lives  
and the lives you touch*

Last summer, a group of forestry researchers discovered ... quite by accident ... a super-black material that they call "nylxon." (niks-uh-lon)

The researchers in British Columbia were trying to develop a way of making wood more water-repellant. They used high-energy plasma to etch a lotus-leaf design onto the surfaces of pieces of wood. The designs ... they hoped ... would slough off water the way a lotus leaf does in the wild. It could reduce the need for chemical treatments to the wood.

But when the researchers applied the plasma to the cut ends of the wood pieces, the ends turned black ... very black ... super-black.

The researchers discovered that this new material absorbs more than 99 per cent of the light that hits it.

This was big news in science circles because absorbing more light makes telescopes and solar panels more precise and efficient.

Right now, coats of black paint or veneer are used when it's important to capture light and ... in the best cases ... only 97-and-a-half per cent of the light is trapped.

That extra percent and a half super-black captures is huge.

This morning, we hear from the Gospel of John ... we head over to Luke next week ... in the church calendar, it's the year of Luke, after all.

Overall, John's gospel is about three things ... the people's origins ... their relationships ... and their identity.

These areas were important to the people who first heard John's gospel message.

The temple had been destroyed ... the Roman rulers had scattered the Jewish population across the region. The people were disconnected from the centre of their faith and from one another. John's audience needed hope and guidance as they navigated into the future.

This morning, John's gospel offers an invitation to view the world differently ... for people to reorient themselves to a different relationship with God and with one another.

John carries us to the very beginning of creation ... "in the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God."

Since the beginning ... the gospel author reminds listeners ... all things are tied to God and God remains part of the life of the world. The Word became human to experience and fully understand the struggles ... the challenges ... and even the joys ... of being human.

God puts skin on light, grace and truth in the form of Jesus so that followers ... the children of God ... can know how light, grace and truth sound and act so the people have an example to follow.

John presents an image of a more intimate God ... one who is among us ... who brings us comfort ... healing ... and love ... who became flesh in order to draw near to us.

Lutheran theologian Craig Koester once spoke about this morning's passage from John.

During a podcast, Koester said:

"You get the power of God, the presence of God revealed even in the human touch that Jesus has in his healing ... in the human words he speaks, but also in the human death he experiences.

"The power of the divine love being revealed in a human form is ultimately what gives life."

... love then gives us life.

... love that brings light to darkness of the world.

We are in a time of transition ... from Advent to Christmas toward Epiphany ... as individuals we move from the unknown to the known as Jesus' nature is revealed to us in the coming weeks ... as a community of faith we are moving from the security of the known to the uncertainty of the unknown.

Through it all we can find certainty in God's love for creation ... in God's unconditional love for each of us.

In John, that love takes the form of light ... a light that pushes back against the darkness of the world. It is a light that makes all the world's injustices and all its wounds visible so that they can be confronted and healed.

It is this light that illuminates humanity's true nature, which we are called to live into and to embrace the joy that comes through divine love.

It is a love that comes in the form of grace ... of grace upon grace. It is a

grace that comes through belief in Jesus ... a belief that makes us children of God ... bearers of the truth that lights our way ... inheritors of a love that shines on and through us. It is a love we are most certainly called to practice ... to share ... to make known.

Let's circle back to the super-black ... light-absorbing material ... for a moment.

It takes almost all the light it receives ... and holds it within itself. It keeps its surroundings in darkness ... ensuring that nothing is seen ... that things can be hidden.

We cannot share in that practice. We cannot simply absorb the light. We cannot hold grace within ourselves. Jesus' followers cannot simply absorb grace and leave it at that.

Through our advocacy and our ministry ... we reflect the light into the world and those hidden things are made known ... not because service or worship hold a personal benefit, but because such things bring the kingdom that much closer.

This morning, John ... the man sent by God ... points people toward the light that came into the world. He points them away from themselves toward some that truly offers hope for the world.

John calls on people not to be like that super-black material, but instead to free themselves from the darkness and carry hope into the world.

Instead of keeping ourselves at the centre, John pulls our gaze to others... to illuminate the way for others. We are

called to reflect God's love ... God's grace ... to the world.

To bear witness to this light ... to proclaim and live it with the power and humility of John the Baptist in the wilderness ... bending the light out to the world like a prism ... creating a rainbow of love that reminds the world of God's promise to people and to creation.

This morning, we heard of a God who put skin on the Word to empower others. All who receive Jesus and believe in him are enabled to put skin on the grace and love we know ... giving them substance for the world to witness and experience.

As we move toward the Epiphany and the period that lies before the Lenten Season, it seems an appropriate time to consider what words we can bring to life ... what words are we able to put skin on.

For some of us it is "justice" ... for others, it is "hospitality" ... for others it is "generosity" ... for still others it is "service" ... and there are other words.

Perhaps, we can consider how we can ... or how we do ... put flesh on these words. How do we make these words real for others ... because when we do the light of grace makes the ills of the world visible ... we reflect it ... bend it outwards to others so that the waves of love continue on to those whose lives become ones of desperation.

They then know that they are not alone ... that we are not alone ... that God remains ever-present ... ever-loving ... in their ... and our ... lives.

**AMEN**

## **Lord's Prayer**

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**

## **Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.  
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**AMEN**

## **EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS...**

**We are in the process** of reviewing and updating our membership records. If you would like a visit from Pastor Chris, please call the church office and leave a message. Pastor Chris would be happy to visit and bring you communion, if you have difficulty attending church services.

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

**AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00) per month

Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Specify \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Specify \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Specify \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Total Monthly Giving: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Contributor's name \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.***

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.