



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
39020 5 Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

**LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE
REPLAY AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY ON YOUTUBE
@HOLYTRINITYLUTHERANCHURCH**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - PEACE

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us...

(Light candle)

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God on the move, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray. **Amen.**

Family of faith, in our honesty, **we are heard.** In our worries, **we are held.**

In our failings, **we are forgiven.** In our fear, **we are not alone.**

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

ELW #250

Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free and raises up new hope for us: a branch from David's tree. So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall, the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all; that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise, in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

Continued on next page

My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way, to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway. Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

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GREETING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SPECIAL MUSIC PANIS ANGELICUS (THE BREAD OF ANGELS) (H.H. HOPSON)

Soloist Grace Loedeman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTOR ALYSA OFFMAN

ISAIAH 43:19-21

A reading from Isaiah.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW P. 171

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

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

Continued on next page

the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR ALYSA OFFMAN

SONG OF THE DAY

THE KING SHALL COME

ELW #260

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

AXEL MORLEY RICHARDS AND ELEANOR JANE CLASSEN

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith into which we baptize. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayer List

Kim, Dorisann, Dan, Peggy, Jo, Ron, Linnea, Robert, Marget, Kathy, Jason,
Erik, Steve, Rhonda, Marge, Carrie, Ray, Jackie

Prayer Prompts

What kind of days are you grieving, people of God?

What reminders of gratitude would you like to lift up, people of God?

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG

GIVE THANKS

W&P #41

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,
let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks.

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OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PASTOR ANDREW CHAVANAK, OLF

The Lord is 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 our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 173

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heav'n 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW P. 173

With your gifts of strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, we join
our voices together to pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 174

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

I LOVE YOU, LORD

W&P #67

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

ELW #248

People, look east. The time is near for the crowning of the year. Make your
house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look
east, and sing today -- Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may
flourish. People, look east, and sing today -- Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today -- Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set
ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People,
look east, and sing today -- Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are a welcoming community of believers in Jesus Christ who witness our faith
...by serving together, praying together, and living generously together.

BLESSING

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be not afraid.

Thanks be to God.