

Weekly Readings for The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Year A, December 21, 2025

Collect of the Day

God with us, born by Mary's flesh beyond all convention: give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and waken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

The First Reading— Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Hear our voice, O Great Shepherd of the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel),
for you are the one who guides the descendants of Creator Gives More (Joseph)
like a flock of sheep. You who are seated in honor on the powerful winged spirit beings—shine
your light!

**Shine your light on the tribes of Fruitful Place (Ephraim), Son of My Right Hand (Benjamin),
and He Made Them Forget (Manasseh). Rise up in your strength. Come and set us free!**

Creator, take us back to your ways. Make your face shine on us,
that we may be set free and made whole.

**Grandfather, Chief of Spirit Warriors, how long will your anger burn
against the prayers of your people?**

You fed them food dipped in tears, and for drink you gave them a pottery jar filled with tears.
**Because of you, nearby nations are stirred up against us,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

O Great Spirit, Chief of Spirit Warriors, turn us back to your ways.
Make your face shine on us, that we may be set free and made whole."

Your grapevine has been cut down and thrown into the fire.

Your angry face has brought us to a bad end.

Let your hand rest on the man who sits at your right hand,
the true human being you have raised up in power.

Then we will not turn our backs on you again.

Raise us to life, and we will once again honor your name.

Second Reading—Romans 1:1-7

From Small Man (Paul), a servant of the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (Jesus). The Great Spirit has called me to be a message bearer, one who has been set apart to tell his good story. The Sacred Teachings tell us about this good story that was promised by the prophets from long ago, who spoke from the Great Spirit. This is the good story about Creator's own Son. In his human body he was descended from Chief Much Loved One (David), and in a powerful way he was shown to be the Son of the Great Spirit when his human body was raised from the dead by the Spirit of all that is sacred. It is because of the gift of his great kindness that we have been chosen to be his message bearers. We are telling his good story to all Nations so they can put their trust in Creator, follow him in all his ways, and bring honor to his name. This sacred task is also yours, because you have been called to belong to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One. I write this message to the ones who live in Village of Iron (Rome). You are all deeply loved by the Great Spirit and are called to be his holy ones. I send to you great kindness and peace from our Father the Creator and from our Honored Chief, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Here is the story of how the Chosen One was born: His mother, Bitter Tears (Mary), had been promised in marriage to He Gives Sons (Joseph). But before they came together in marriage, while still a virgin, she found out that she was carrying a baby in her womb from the Holy Spirit. He Gives Sons (Joseph) was a man of honor. He did not want to bring her trouble and open shame, so he thought about secretly releasing her from the marriage promise. As he wondered about these things, a messenger from the Great Spirit appeared to him in a dream and said, "He Gives Sons (Joseph), descendant of Much Loved One (David), do not be afraid to take Bitter Tears (Mary) to be your wife, because the Holy Spirit has given her this child. She will give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus), because he will set his people free from their bad hearts and broken ways." This gave full meaning to the words of Creator spoken long ago by the prophet, "A young virgin will be with child and give birth to a son. They will call his name Immanuel, 1 which in our tribal language means Creator Is with Us." When He Gives Sons (Joseph) woke up, he followed the guidance given him in the dream and took Bitter Tears (Mary) to be his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until after the child was born, and he named the child Creator Sets Free (Jesus).

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements *(if you have an announcement to share, please contact Rev. Sarah by Wednesday.)*

- **Christmas Eve-** Join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior on Dec. 24 at 5 pm. The service will include music, singing, and a low-stress pageant from the pews. All are welcome!
- **Christmas Day Compline-** You're invited to join in a quiet evening prayer, or compline, service on Dec. 25 at 5:30 pm.
- **Rev. Sarah's maternity and holiday leave-** Rev. Sarah's maternity and holiday leave- Christmas Eve will be Rev. Sarah's final service with Trinity before her Christmas leave and following maternity leave. Look to announcements and the weekly email for updates for what the worship schedule, pastoral care, and church operations will look like during her leave.
- **Prayers of the People New Format—**Please be looking to the list at the back of the church when you arrive for the spot where you may fill in names for the prayers of the people. We are hoping to make this a more immediate and current presence in the service, with names updated from those who are actively on our hearts each week. If there are names you would like to have off of the running list, please let Rev. Sarah know.

Service Leaders for 12/21/2025

Reader- John Erickson
Prayers of the People- Lisa Gordillo
Usher- Chris Peyser

Service Leaders for 12/24/2025

Reader 1- Robin Øye
Reader 2- George Miller
Reader 3- Toni Erickson
Reader 4- Nick Bradley
Prayers- Lisa Gordillo
Prayers- Cheri Poynter
Usher- Pat Joyce

Service Leaders for 12/28/2025

Reader- Robin Øye
Prayers of the People- Cheri Poynter
Usher- Dave Courey

Rev. Sarah's time: Please reach out for pastoral needs or time with me by email at sarahdienschlitt@gmail.com. Office hours: 10-4 Tuesdays-Thursdays. I observe sabbath on Mondays, and don't typically answer emails on Saturdays and Mondays. If the situation is an emergency, please call or text me at 218-341-0900.

Trinity Episcopal Prayer List

Please hold the following people in your prayers. If you have names you would like added to this list, please see your Trinity email or connect with Rev. Sarah.

Daphne, Jesper, Emeryson; Sue Mollen; Lloyd; Aili-Drew Tulppo and her family; John, Ann and their family; Dave; Michael and Theresa; Aaron, Blade, and the Krum-Frisch family; Elizabeth Joyce Thrasher; RaRa Schlitt; James Wade; Jim and Linda; Amber; Kat; Evelyn; Gabriela; Chris; Steve; Charlie; George; Jack; Alex and John; Lisa; Thomas; Jeanie Cox Jensen; Susan

