



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their 45th Anniversary by Bill and Sarah Weeks.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister  
Preaching & Pianist

Susan J. Crowell  
Jim Parham

Cantor

Christine Parham

Lectors

Mark Allen  
Penny Bostain

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God.**  
**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
† comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory  
comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings,  
the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation  
to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and  
praise our god and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.**

**He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's  
gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows  
to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and  
worship him with song for saving us from wrong.**

**Oh happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true  
king's commands. And blessed be the hearts he rules,  
the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful  
son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world, our only strength for good.**

**Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
up on our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy  
Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!**

## 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.**

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen**

*Refrain*

***Be strong, fear not, Here is your God. Be strong, fear not, here is your God.  
Be strong, fear not. Here is your God who comes to save us.***

**Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
Make firm the knees that are weak,  
Say to those hearts that are frightened:  
Be strong fear not.   *Refrain***

**The eyes of the blind be opened,  
The ears of the deaf be cleared.  
The broken will dance forever,  
The silent will sing.   *Refrain***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.  
By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins,  
and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

## FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would shake before you!  
<sup>2</sup>As fire kindles the brushwood  
and the fire makes water boil,  
make your Name known to your adversaries,  
and let the nations tremble before you!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we could not have expected,  
you came down and the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no ear has heard,  
no eye has ever seen any God but you,  
intervening for those who wait for you!  
<sup>5</sup>Oh, that you would find us doing right  
that we would be mindful of you in our ways!  
You are angry because we are sinful;  
we sinned for so long – how can we be saved?  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>All of us became unclean and soiled,  
even our good deeds are polluted.  
We have all withered like leaves,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup>No one who calls on your Name,  
there is none who clings to you,  
for you hid your face from us  
and delivered us into the hands of our sins.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, you are our mother and father, Lord  
we are the clay, and you are the potter;  
we are the work of your hands.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever,  
for we are all our people.

The Word of the Lord.

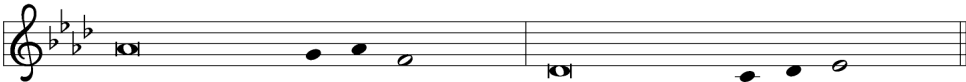
**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm  
Refrain*



Let your face shine up - on us and  
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

*Psalm  
Tone*



PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor  
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from First Corinthians.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus <sup>5</sup>in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. <sup>6</sup>In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so affirmed among you <sup>7</sup>that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>God will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus our Savior, is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*Wait*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Promised One coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>The angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the Promised One is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Only Begotten, but only God. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a traveling abroad, when they leave their homes and puts their workers in charge, each with a certain task, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the owner of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else the owner may suddenly come and catch you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*The Promised One*

*Stand as able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

#435

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near;  
all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear;  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow’r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we are gathered in our homes on this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God comes quickly to this weary world.

Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, both our congregation and assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace our pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who minister in the church. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. We pray especially for . . . . Shape us to become your arms of mercy. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Healer of our every ill, save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. Receive now our private prayers. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to help us.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of COVID-19; and for those we name here before you. . . . At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence. Stir up your strength, O God.

**Come to save us.**

Eternal Father, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, to bring us life.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

☞ **Peace be with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.*

*Sit*

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,  
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW 247  
Words and Music Geonyong Lee*

OFFERTORY HYMN

*What Feast of Love*

#487

**What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?**

**What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?**

**This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.**

**Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?**

**What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?**

**This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.**

**Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

**What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?**

**What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?**

**This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.**

**Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given**

*Stand as able*

Let us pray. Generous God,  
**you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.  
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### 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.**

*Sit*

#### COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

*Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*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.

COMMUNION HYMN

*My Lord, What a Morning*

#438

*Refrain*

***My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.***

**You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

*Stand as able*

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

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✚ now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

#256

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.**

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hill, bow down in humble favor.**

**Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Fling Wide the Door*

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*What Feast of Love*

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*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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