



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 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 memory of his mother, Laila McCormack, by Rob and Angie McCormack.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister

Susan J. Crowell

Preaching

Amanda Burke

Pianist

Jim Parham

Cantor

John Park

Lectors

Peggy Schotsch
Mac Wannemacher

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.

**People, look east. The time is near of 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.**

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 victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. 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.***

**Climb to the highest mountain,
Walk in the path of light,
All nations shall join together,
Rejoice and sing!** *Refrain*

**The wolf shall befriend the small lamb,
The leopard shall rest with the kid.
The calf and the lion shall follow
The child who guides.** *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display God's glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm
Refrain



The LORD has done great things for us.

Psalm
Tone



PSALM

Psalm 126

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

- ¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
- ²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”**
- ³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.
- ⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**
- ⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
- ⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

SECOND READING
24

1 Thessalonians 5:16-

A reading from First Thessalonians

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

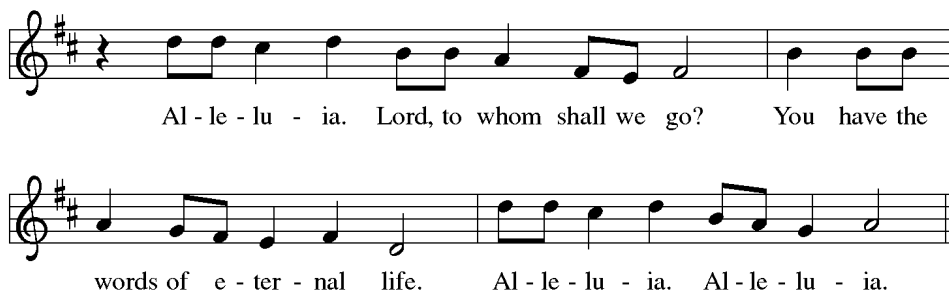
²³May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The One who calls you is faithful; God will make sure it will come to pass.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, ⁷who come as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he only came to testify about the Light- the true Light that illumines all humankind.

¹⁹Now the Temple authorities sent emissaries from Jerusalem – priests and Levites – to talk to John. “who are you?” they asked. This is John’s testimony: ²⁰he didn’t refuse to answer, but freely admitted, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹“Who are you then?” they asked. “Elijah?” “Are you a Prophet?” “No,” he replied. ²²Finally they said to him, “who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you have to say for yourself?” ²³John said, “I am, as Isaiah prophesied, the voice of someone crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”

²⁴The emissaries were members of the Pharisee sect. ²⁵They questioned him further: “If you’re not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, then why are you baptizing people?”

²⁶John said, “I baptize with water because among you stands someone whom you don’t recognize - ²⁷the One who is to come after me – the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy even to untie.”²⁸This occurred in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.*Sit*

SERMON

Amanda Burke

Stand as able

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!”**

**Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth’s bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.**

**See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv’n;**

**So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered in our homes on this third Sunday of Advent, we join in prayer as we await God’s salvation.

God of prophets and preachers, strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, and lay leaders. Protect Christians who are persecuted for the faith. While churches await a full return to assembly worship, empower the baptized with your faithful Spirit. Embed your word in our hearts. We pray for the church:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely on nature’s rhythms for their livelihood. Train us to dwell on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive. We pray for the earth:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions in the Middle East, and bring peace where civil conflicts rage. Release child soldiers from forced service. Equip regions to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war. We pray for the nations:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of exiles and wanderers, give a homeland to refugees. Provide housing for those whose dwellings have been destroyed. Protect those who are without homes from the cold and be with teenage runaways. Uphold the work of ELCA Good Gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and all disaster relief organizations. Comfort all who feel isolated from others.

We pray for all in distress:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of the sorrowing and the brokenhearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. Receive our prayers for . . .

We pray for the sick:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of all people, we await peace and justice – peace in our hearts and homes and justice for those on the margins. Help us to reach out with words and deeds of love to encourage and empower those struggling with mental illness, our black and brown siblings, those living in poverty, the LGBTQIA+ community, and all who feel forgotten and forsaken. Sustain us as we await your coming. We pray for all of your children.

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of sinners and saints, while facing sadness and death, we grieve; yet we offer you praise for all the saints, especially the martyr Lucy, those who have died of COVID-19, and those whose names we call out to you now. . . . At the end, gather us into the joy of your glory. We pray for your salvation.

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God beyond all things, God dwelling among us now, receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came, who comes, and who is coming now and forever.

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.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ELW 241

Words: Paul Gerhardt, Music: Johann Crüger

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 HYMNS

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#254

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.**

**He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forever more.**

**He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.**

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more.**

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.

**“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; hills, 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

People Look East

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He Came Down

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What Feast of Love

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