



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021 - 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 celebration of their retirement by David and Donna Potts.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister & Preaching	Ian Boden
Pianist	Jim Parham
Lector	Chris Sorenson
Cantors	Bob Schirmer Sheryl Schirmer
Greeters	Mark Allen Bonnie Farmer Debbie Farstad Chris Sorenson Dora Welch Melanie Wessinger
Ushers	Kay Cook Lani Ludian David Potts
Reception Hosts	Amanda Cook Kay Cook Beth Oswald
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

*Worship bags are available in the Narthex and outside the Sacristy  
for children. Bags for pre-school are tied with a blue ribbon.  
Bags for K-5 - Grade 5 have no ribbon.*

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*Stand as able*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
† your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**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 us your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look  
east and sing today— Love, the Rose, is one the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
bowl shall brim, shinning 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.**

#### THE 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.**

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the  
God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the  
wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my  
weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

*Refrain*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction**Psalm  
Refrain**Psalm  
Tone*<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O  
LORD.<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

A reading from first Thessalonians.

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before God on your account? <sup>10</sup> We earnestly pray night and day to be able to see you again and make up for any shortcomings in your faith. <sup>11</sup> May our loving Abba God and Jesus, our Savior, direct our steps back to you. <sup>12</sup> May Christ increase to overflowing your love for one another and for all people, even as our love does for you; <sup>13</sup> may Christ strengthen your hearts, making them blameless and holy before our Abba God at the coming of our Savior Jesus with all the holy ones.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Waiting for Christmas*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the twenty-first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

SERMON

*Waiting, Demanding, Vulnerable, Bold*

*Stand as able*

**Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen  
on the heights are crying; awake, Jerusalem, at last.  
Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the  
thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.  
The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!"  
Alleluia! Rise, prepare, the feast to share;  
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near as he draws near.**

**Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her  
heart with joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in  
grace, in truth victorious; her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son.  
Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
and follow to the banquet hall.**

**Gloria! Let heav'n adore you! Let saints and  
angels sing before you, with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming, lead us to  
bliss beyond all dreaming, with angel choirs around your throne.  
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might  
of such glory. There we will go: what joy we'll know!  
There sweet delight will ever flow.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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.**

**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. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

*All Earth is Hopeful*

#266

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the  
labor of people who struggle to see how  
God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she  
conceived him, "God with us," our brothers, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost  
here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All  
clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby I a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our  
world; he is present, in neighbors we see our  
Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,  
**we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.**  
**Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.**  
**Amen.**

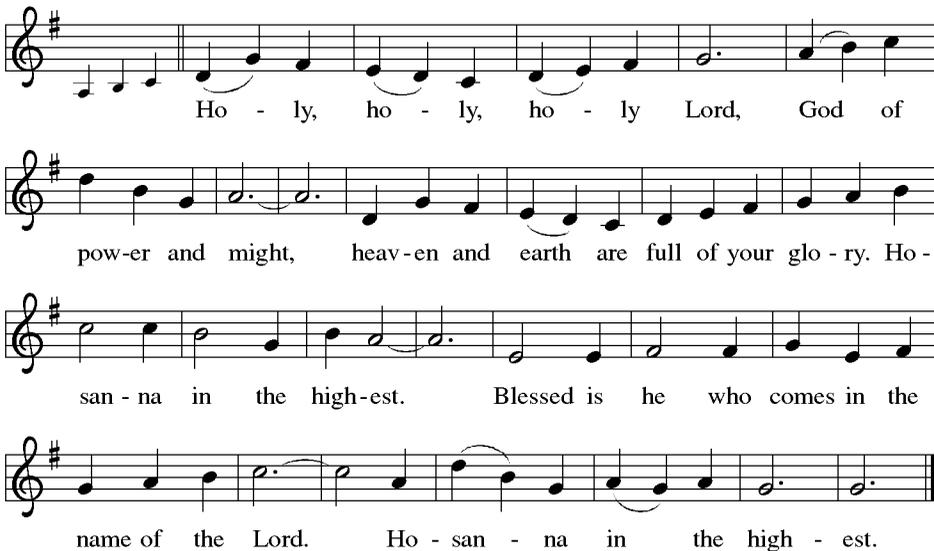
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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 for 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.**

*Please be seated*

## COMMUNION

*Worshippers will come forward to receive the bread and wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.*

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's love and grace.*

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION



ANTHEM

*Lost in the Night* - Finnish Folk Tune  
arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Adult Choir

HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#257

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive  
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things  
far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**O come, O come O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain***

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's  
tyranny; from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *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

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

#### SENDING

#### BLESSING

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

**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.**

*Please be seated for the Opening Session of the Congregation Meeting.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Ian E. Boden  
Vicar/Pastoral Intern

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon  
Director of Youth  
and Children's Ministries

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and  
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

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Campbell Balck  
Youth

Wynne Boliek

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Melissa Kolb

Franklin Sease