



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 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 by Heather Kleckley.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Ian Boden
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Margaret Roth
Cantors	Valerie Hollinger Wayne Hollinger
Greeters	Mark Allen Anne Fagala Danny Fagala Jesse Fagala Madelyn Fagala Bonnie Farmer Debbie Farstad Terry Morgan Kerry Sease
Ushers	Pattimarie Janssen Lani Ludian Franklin Sease
Reception Hosts	Jonathan Preacher Patrick Preacher
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.

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for
angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for
soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts
together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and
lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a singing, his humble song is
quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving
kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to
shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when
all the world is despairing, as morning light so
quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap
in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and
weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though
dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall
crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and
bring us at last into glory.**

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 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.

**From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r not a
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware,
for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
food they can never earn; there are tables spread, every
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Refrain**

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Shout for joy, fair Zion; shout, Israel, be glad!

Rejoice with all your heart, fair Jerusalem!

¹⁵ God has averted your punishment and swept away your foes. Israel, God is among you as ruler; never again need you fear disaster.

¹⁶ On that day this must be the message to Jerusalem:

Fear not, Zion, let not your hands hang limp in despair,

¹⁷ for God your God is in your midst, a warrior to keep you safe;
who will rejoice over you and be glad of it; who will show you love once more,
and exult with songs of joy

¹⁸ and soothe those who are grieving. At the appointed time I will take away your cries of woe and you will no longer endure reproach.

(Continued on next page)

¹⁹ When that time comes, I will deal with all who oppress you;
I will rescue the lost and gather the dispersed. I will win for my people praise and
renown throughout the whole world.

²⁰ When that time comes, I will gather you and bring you home. I will win for you renown
and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your
eyes.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The refrain is introduced by the cantor.

Isaiah 12:2-6

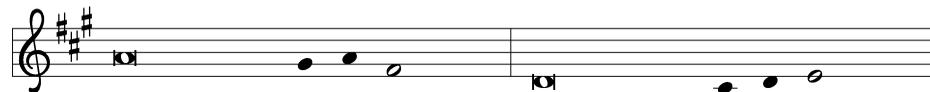
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction

Psalm Refrain



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Psalm Tone



² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation. R**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name |
is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Advent Joy

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 third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Making Room for Joy

Stand as able

**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.**

**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.**

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.

Holy God, in this Advent Season, we rejoice in your presence among us. Renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news to all people. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Encourage all who are discerning calls to ministry.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, in this Advent Season, we rejoice in your presence among us. Your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we may be inspired to live in peace and harmony with one another and the planet. Teach us to care for and cherish your gift of creation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, in this Advent Season, we rejoice in your presence among us. You lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who speak the truth, who stand up for the marginalized, who bravely oppose the Empire, who create brave, safe spaces for those who have often been pushed to the side...our black and brown siblings, the queer community, and those struggling to make ends meet.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, in this Advent Season, we rejoice in your presence among us. You come near in times of worry, fear, and need. Cradle us in your arms and enable us to trust in you and your desire to make a way for us in the wilderness of our lives. Attend to those who are hungry, imprisoned, addicted, grieving, or sick. Hear us now as we lift up the names of those in our lives who stand in special need of your love and care....

Names may be spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, in this Advent Season, we rejoice in your presence among us. You exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians, especially we give thanks for Pastor Jim Parham who inspires us all to make a joyful noise. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Help us to rejoice that their struggles are over, that they are happy, joyful, and at peace with you in their eternal home.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. You bless us with the gift of joy. Shift our priorities so that we might make room in our busy, chaotic lives for this joy. 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 brother, 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 in 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:



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



**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth
receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him
room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns
infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**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

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.

SENDING HYMN

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.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
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