



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 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 honor of her mother, Joanne Jumper, on her birthday by Marcus and Connie Blackstone.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister & Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Ian Boden
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Campbell Balck
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Greeters	Mark Allen Penny Bostain Bonnie Farmer Anne Harmon Calvin Harmon Lani Ludian Peggy Schotsch Dora Welch Donice Winslow
Ushers	David Nichols Karen Nichols Alice Smith
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

HOLY BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In baptism our gracious heavenly parent frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsor presents the candidates.

We present Danny, Jesse, and Madelyn for baptism.

Danny/Jesse/Madelyn called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

Danny and Anne, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have these children baptized into Christ?

Response:

We do.

As you bring Jesse and Madelyn to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Jesse and Madelyn grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

We do.

Stand as able

People of God, do you promise to support Danny, Jesse, and Madelyn and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Danny/Jesse/Madelyn,

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BAPTISMAL ACCLAMATION

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

al - le - lu - ia.

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

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Danny/Jesse/Madelyn with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Danny Eugene Fagala/Jesse Everett Fagala/Madelyn Grace Fagala, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Let us welcome Danny, Jesse and Madelyn into our church family.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and re-
deeming word to all the world.**

Those who have gathered at the font may share the peace before returning to their places.

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces
that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the
way for God within, and let us all our
hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge
and our great reward; without your grace we
waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face upon
us shine and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent
has our freedom won, whom with the Father
we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

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 circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you
work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
strong to flight, for the world is 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹ Well, pay attention! I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way for me; the One you seek will suddenly come to the Temple, the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for will come, says God. ² But who can endure the day of that Coming? Who can stand firm when that One appears? That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap. ³ The One will preside as refiner and purifier, purifying the Children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver—then they will once again make offerings to God in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to God as they were in former days, in years long past.

The Word of God for the people of God.

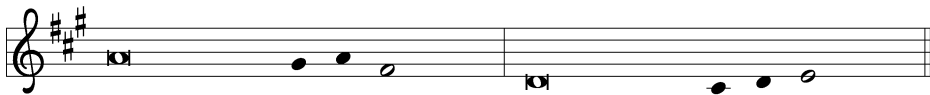
Thanks be to God.

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction**Psalm
Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God



the dawn from on high will break up - on us.

*Psalm
Tone*

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David. R**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
free to worship you | without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R**

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Advent Peace

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.

¹In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. ²In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert. ³John went through the entire region of the Jordan calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins, ⁴as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet: "A herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God; clear a straight path. ⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The twisted paths will be made straight, and the rough road smooth— ⁶and all humankind will see the salvation of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

The Upside-Down Power of God

Stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for those of us who are grieving the death of loved ones that the hope of resurrection will bring comfort, hope, and peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for those of us who are lost, alone, lonely, and hungry for human connection and community that new relationships be formed that comfort and strengthen.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for the kings, the tetrarchs, the emperors, and the political leaders of our day. Give them the courage and resolve to serve all people with equity and justice.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for the victims of anger, hate, and violence...especially for the families of the students who lost their lives this week in the Oxford High School shooting in Oxford, Michigan.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for those of us who have power and privilege that we might use our power and privilege to ease the suffering of others and not for selfish gain.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for those of us who have been wounded by the church's rejection and condemnation. We pray especially for those of us who are queer and who have been the object of the church's judgment. May the light of Christ bring healing, wholeness, and redemption.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray for those of us who struggle with anxiety and/or depression as well as other illnesses that this season might bring hope, healing, contentment, and peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Christ child for whom we wait is a gift for all people. We pray those of us who are oppressed and marginalized because of our poverty, our immigration status, our gender, or the color of our skin. Help us work together to create a world where all people are equally loved and valued.

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 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:

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. 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.**

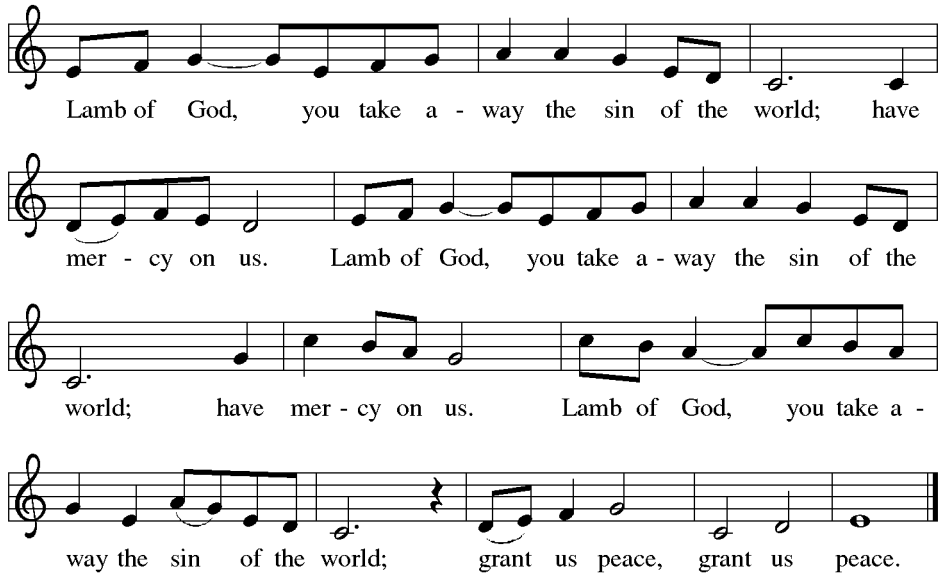
Please be seated

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



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, grant us peace.

ANTHEM

The Yearning
by Craig Courtney

Adult Choir

**Rejoice rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
 the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
 The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
 Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
 go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
 The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
 Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
 shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
 Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
 in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
 the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

#246

**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!**

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.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*The congregation is invited to
gather in the Gym for the
Second Session of the Annual Meeting
that will begin at 11:30 am.*

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
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

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Vice-President

Heather Kleckley
Secretary

Richard Moose
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Campbell Balck
Youth

Wynne Boliek

Ryan Koon

Tom DiAntonio

Angie McCormack

Heather Fanning

Terry Morgan

Debbie Farstad

Merry Mulcahy

Valerie Hollinger

Joe Rice

Melissa Kolb

Franklin Sease