



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



### 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 Bob Coon and in honor of Ann Coon by David and Donna Potts.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Philip Wessinger
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Guitar	Steve Koenemann
Lector	Nick Arnold
Cantor	Jeff Rehm
Prayers	Jonathan Preacher
Acolyte	Abby Sease
Greeters	Mark Allen Linda Morgan Mary Beth Ridenhour Brad Waters Dora Welch
Ushers	Bonnie Farmer Calvin Harmon David Potts
Refreshment Hosts	Chris and Dean Nix Rosa Waldrep
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; + Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

In this season of light, let us come before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

God of Love and Light,

**We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.**

**We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark.**

**We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated, and judgmental.**

**We inflame others by lashing out in anger.**

**We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.**

**We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.**

**Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light.**

**Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

**Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Know this day that all your sins are forgiven, in the name of God, the Father, the Son +, and 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 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 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.**

#### 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.**

## KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy\_\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_\_ on\_\_ us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.\_\_ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_\_ to our dark - ness. Fill\_\_ us\_\_ with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all\_\_ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us\_\_ how to\_\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_\_ bind.  
Show us how to love our\_\_ neigh - bor. Run to those who\_\_ cry for\_\_ help.



Breathe new\_\_ life in - to our\_\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_\_ hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

## 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, ev'ry mouth be fed, 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. In this season of advent open our hearts and minds to the possibility of profound transformation, transformation in our individual lives and transformation in our life together in community. Move us to hear with new ears, see with new eyes, believe with new faith, and trust with new resolve all for the sake of healing, wholeness, hope, redemption, and reconciliation for all, 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

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense, who will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of God for the people of God.

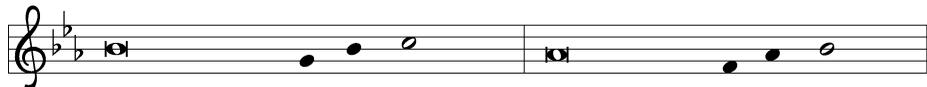
**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm  
Refrain*



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

*Psalm  
Tone*



- <sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
- <sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;**
- <sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the | captive free.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed  
down; the LORD | loves the righteous. R**
- <sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- <sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

A reading from James.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*New Eyes to See*

*Please stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Hark, the Glad Sound  
(verse 1)*

#239

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior  
promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare  
a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples  
<sup>3</sup>and said to Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”  
<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

*Radical Transformation: The Promise and Threat of Advent*

*Please stand as able*

**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.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Watching and waiting joyfully for Christ with the sure and certain hope that God frees us from the bondage of sin, we pray for the church, creation, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the ELCA and especially the South Carolina Synod. As we watch and we wait,  
**hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands that have been squandered and depleted. Protect endangered species. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. As we watch and we wait,  
**hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism, homophobia, transphobia, and oppression of all kinds. Deliver all who are imprisoned or persecuted. Bring treatment and help to those struggling with poor mental health. Help us stand against evil—evil in the world and evil in our own hearts. As we watch and we wait,  
**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Strengthen and protect all who risk themselves to keep others safe. As we watch and we wait,

**hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family, friends, and chosen family. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. As we watch and we wait,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you call leaders to work with you to bring love into this world. We give you thanks for those who faithfully serve this congregation, currently clearing a path for your people to make a way to the manger. Bless Susan, Jim, Amy, Patrick, Kay, Henry, Karen, Roy, and Beth as they do your work of preparing our spaces and our hearts for the joy of your nativity. Continue to strengthen their ministries. Give them the confidence to know, even in times of wilderness, that they are called to a holy purpose. Protect their lives and their ministries from any and all harm. As we watch and we wait,

**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. As we watch and we wait,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

OFFERING

*O Day of Peace*

Adult Choir

Music: H.H. Parry, Text: C. P. Daw

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

*Please stand as able*

OFFERING HYMN

*Rise, O Sun of Righteousness*

#657

**Rise, O Sun of righteousness; with your  
might creation bless. Shine upon your church today,  
showing all your gentle way. Have mercy, Lord.**

Let us pray, **God of Light, our world is a very dark place.**

**Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time, and, our resources,  
trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence.**

**May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good  
works and give glory to you.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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.**

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished. Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. — God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes — Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God. —

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now  
and forever.**

**Amen.**

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

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

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your  
peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive your grace and teach us how to fol- low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re- joice! E- man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

**“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.**

*He Came Down*

#253

**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.**

**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.**

*Please stand as able*

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, our bright Morning Star,  
we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper.  
May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world  
with your love, justice, and peace.  
We ask this in your holy name.

**Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace,  
Creator, ✚ Redeemer, and Sanctifier,  
bless you, comfort you,  
and show you the path of life  
this day and always.

**Amen.**

**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to  
see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a  
weary world: the promised day of justice comes.**

*Refrain*

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

**Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find  
bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once  
forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a  
weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back of the Gym  
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

*Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

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*He Came Down*

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*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher  
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook  
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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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