



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



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 all our passionate, faithful members, and leaders at Trinity by Jeff and Margaret Roth.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Guitar	Steve Koenemann
Lector	Penny Bostain
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Prayers	Calvin Harmon
Acolytes	Bethany Hybl Clark Lawrence
Greeters	Mark Allen Anne Fagala Danny Fagala Jesse Fagala Madelyn Fagala Anne Harmon David Nichols Karen Nichols
Ushers	Steve Boguski Calvin Harmon Teresa Harrington David Potts
Refreshment Hosts	Amy Brown Amanda Cook
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 as 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.

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and Sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

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 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. As we encounter John the Baptist in the wilderness on this second Sunday of advent, we acknowledge the places of darkness in our lives. We acknowledge the loneliness, the lostness, our deep need for hope and direction. Give us eyes to see, hearts to trust, and faith to believe that you are in the wilderness with us, that, no matter how dire the situation, you will always make a way forward for us. Hold our hands. Give us strength. Comfort us in our suffering. Never ever leave us or forsake us. Always give us the courage to be strong, loving, and fearless; 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 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah

¹ Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom.* ² The Spirit of God will rest on you—a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God. ³ You will delight in obeying God, and you will not judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay. ⁴ You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. ⁵ Justice will be the belt around your waist—faithfulness will gird you up. ⁶ Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. ⁸ The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest. ⁹ There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of God. ¹⁰ On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

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*

- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
- ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jewish people on behalf of the truth of God in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and in order that the gentiles might glorify our merciful God. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰and again it is said, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with the people of God”; ¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise the Lord”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in whom the gentiles shall hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Advent Hope

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 third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, ² “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” ³ He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said: The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.” ⁴ John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. ⁶ As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁷ Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸ Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. ⁹ And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

In the Messy Middle with John the Baptist

Please 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

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.

Holy God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians who translate the mysteries of faith into word and song. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you give us a vision of creation in harmony. We give thanks for the beauty of the evergreen trees we decorate in our homes and our church. Whether living or artificial, let them be a reminder of the evergreen nature of Christ - unchanging yet always new and fresh. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. Bring an end to anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, rhetoric, and theology. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of domestic violence. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter. Guide your people in doing the necessary work to help make homelessness brief, rare, and nonrecurring. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We give you thanks for those in our congregation who provide meals for the sick, care for the grieving, and look after the homebound. We pray for people who are hospitalized or separated from loved ones, especially for those we name now in our hearts or on our lips ... As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you call us to do your work in the world. As this congregation meets today to vote on council members and a budget for 2023, bring understanding where there is disagreement and hope where there is anxiety. Equip us to do your good work. We trust in you to guide and walk alongside as we use our resources for the good of the world inside and outside these walls. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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 be with you always.
And also with you.

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

Please be seated

OFFERING	<i>Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming</i> by Michael Praetorius	Adult Choir
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Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN	<i>Rise, O Sun of Righteousness</i>	#657
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**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!

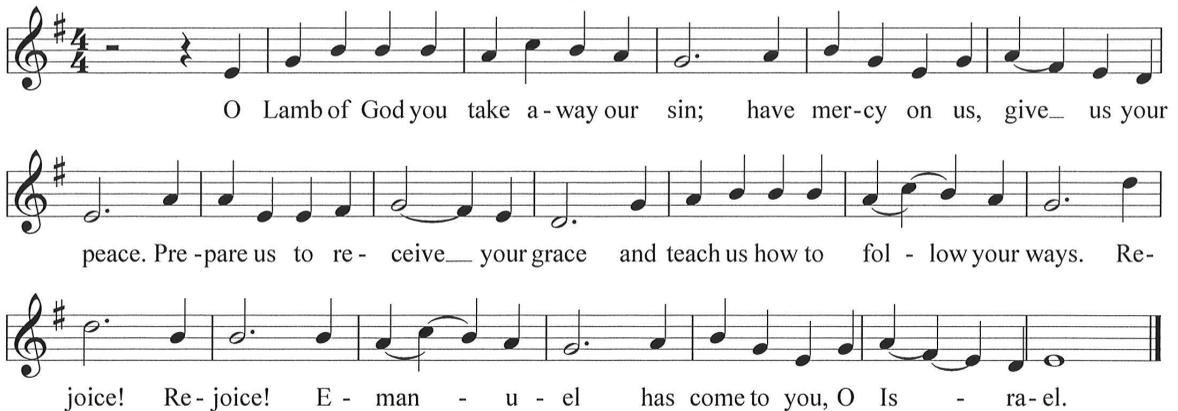
Please be seated

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.

Worshipers 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

#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.**

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***

Please be seated for the Second Session of the Congregation Meeting.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn for refreshments
and fellowship during the recess of the congregation meeting.*

Prepare the Royal Highway

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