



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023 - 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 their mothers, Janice Black and Doris Wessinger, by Philip and Melanie Wessinger.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Mary Cannon-Spencer
Prayers	Elijah Colburn
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Acolytes	Madelyn Fagala Ben McCormack
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Anna Fagala Heather Fanning Teresa Harrington
Praying for Possibilities	Lani Ludian
Greeters	Mark Allen Bonnie Farmer Pattimarie Janssen Linda Morgan Suzanne Rudisill Chris Sorenson
Ushers	Steve Boguski Carol Elliott Calvin Harmon David Potts
Fellowship Hosts	David and Karen Nichols
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

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.***

**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***

**From the hall 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***

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

Refrain

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.

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

**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***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make clear in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the GOD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of GOD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of GOD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your
voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and rules with a mighty arm;
God comes bearing reward, preceded by the reparation,

¹¹Like a shepherd, God will feed the flock; and gather the
lambs and hold them close, and carry them in God's own bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm



Righ - teous - ness shall pre -



pare a path - way for God.

Psalm
Tone

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

A reading from second Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Most high one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹God is not slow about the promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with God's promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by God at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our God as salvation.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

An Advent Story

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Hark, the Glad Sound!
(verses 1 and 4)*

#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.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome
shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal
arches ring with your beloved name.**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make clear the paths of our God.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

God Always Makes A Way

Please stand as able

**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.**

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Holy God, send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal especially when we, mother earth's stewards, continue to take advantage of her resources. Bring wholeness to all the creatures of the earth, especially the red cardinals, blue robins, and pine warblers who wait here with us during these cold months, knowing the promise of a brighter and warmer day is certain. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, 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 and rhetoric, guiding leaders to be generous in their words and actions for the sake of all. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Make your loving presence known to all who are grieving, working through mental health concerns, or who fear for their lives. Be steadily present at the bedsides of the sick and dying. Where hospice beds are moved into homes, swiftly move your Holy Spirit to be a comfort and source of strength. We pray today especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, grant expectant hope to us all this season. So often our willingness to open our hearts to you withers and our resolve to respond to your grace with works of justice, love, and peace fades. Sustain us during those times of wilderness so that even in our doubt and uncertainty, we might hear your voice clearing righteous paths ahead of us. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, your glory has been revealed in those who have gone before us. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past, guiding us to follow their good example. Bless the anticipation of saints yet to be born who will bring gifts to this world yet to be known. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. As we watch and we wait,
hear our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

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

MEAL

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
by Paul Manz

Adult Choir

Please stand as able.

OFFERING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon
(verses 1-3)

#439

**Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!**

**No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!**

**No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

God our provider,
**by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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.

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:



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

**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.**

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.
Gluten free wafers are available.*

*At the direction of the ushers worshipers are invited to come to the Altar -
kneeling as able to receive a wafer and a small cup of wine.*

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.

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.**

**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, 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.**

**“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; hills, 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.**

**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.**

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

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

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!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
Trust in God who makes a way for us.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn
for refreshments and fellowship .*

Canticle of the Turning

Words © 1990 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A

Prepare the Royal Highway

Words © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A

All Earth is Hopeful

Spanish Words & music © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

Soon and Very Soon

Words and Music © 1976, Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A

People, Look East

Words © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.
Arr, © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

Words © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A

Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons.com*, copyright © 2023. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #20559.

Reprinted from *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted from *The Inclusive Bible*, Copyright © 2007 Priests for Equality. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

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

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Melissa Kolb
Vice-President

Richard Moose
Treasurer

Wynne Boliek

Heather Fanning

Debbie Farstad

Greg Hamluk

Calvin Harmon

Lane Lewis

Lani Wise
Secretary

Peyton Roth
Youth

John Otten

Jimmy Reynolds

Peggy Schotsch

Kerry Sease

Chris Sorenson

Chris Wannemacher