



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024 - 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 thanksgiving for Pastor Susan Crowell by Scott and Chris Sorenson.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister and Preaching	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Josh Warner
Prayers	Melissa Kolb
Communion Assistant	Brad Waters
Cantor	Jeremy McCarty
Acolyte	Madelyn Fagala Dovie Dykes
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Anne Fagala Lani Ludian Suzanne Rudisill
Nursery	Anne Harmon
Praying for Possibilities	Terri Sullivan
Greeters	Mark Allen Suzanne Rudisill Chris Sorenson
Ushers	Richard Delap Calvin Harmon Lani Ludian David Potts
Fellowship Hosts	Lani and Russ Wise
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

About the First Sunday of Advent:

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, God of might, God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

We confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

We confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

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, 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.**

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 evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Be Strong, Fear Not

THOMAS KEESECKER



Refrain: Be strong, fear not. Here is your God. Be strong, fear not. Here is your God. He comes to save us.

**Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
Make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those hearts that are frightened:
Be strong fear not.** *Refrain*

**The eyes of the blind be opened,
The ears of the deaf be cleared.
The broken will dance forever,
The silent will sing.** *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Holy Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of sin and renew us for your life of justice. When the world around us seems shrouded in darkness and pain, point us toward signs of hope and promise. Activate your church to be part of your radical work in the world. We pray for the advent of your redemption, for you live and reign with the Holy Parent and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

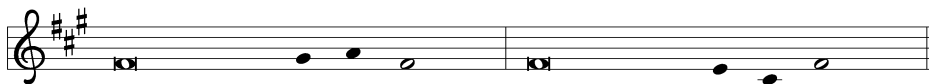
Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says GOD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, who shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "GOD is our righteousness."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

- ¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. R**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O
LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.
- ¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 30:9-13

A reading from first Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our own Abba God and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may Christ make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may Christ so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our Abba God at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the twenty-first chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the reign of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

I Can See the Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Please stand as able

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Now redemption, long expected,
comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that truly benefit the common good rather than the only the privileged few. As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our heart ...

In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of identity in this community. As we celebrate the many ways this family of faith grows and changes, turn

us also toward long-time members who have weathered storms, celebrated life events, and remained faithful to you and this place in ways that have nurtured new growth. As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of open doors, you call us to fling wide the doors of the church so that all people may find home in you. Guide us in our call to shine your light as an example to the world around us. As we celebrate the beginning of a new church year, teach us new ways to

welcome the stranger, do ministry with the queer and trans community, care for one another, and proclaim your good news to the marginalized. As we watch and wait,

hear our prayer.

God of all compassion, you comfort your people. Today we commemorate World AIDS Day along with all those who have been affected but HIV/AIDS. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love, and peace. Open our eyes to your image reflected in the faces of those living with HIV. Give us the strength to weep with the grieving, to walk with the lonely, to stand with the depressed. May our love mirror your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress, and who suffer rejection. Grant rest to those who have died and hope to all who live with HIV. Strengthen and sustain local organizations such as AID Upstate as they do the good work of testing and treatment in our community. God of life and hope, help us to find the cure now and help us to build a world in which no one dies alone and where everyone lives accepted, wanted, and loved. As we watch and wait,
hear our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died and now rest with you. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, As we watch and wait,
hear our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
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

ANTHEM

A Shoot Shall Come Forth
by Richard Horn

Adult Choir

(Text by Richard Horn based on Isaiah 11 and 32:18)

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, And a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him, The spirit of wisdom and truth.

*Refrain: Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard,
And the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them
To the peaceable kingdom of God.*

From out of the wells of salvation Will he draw us the water of life;
His waist shall be girdled with justice, The heart of his heart shall be Love. *Refrain.*

He'll come from the end of his heaven, And the earth shall be torn from its place;
Our lives shall be filled with his radiance As floodwaters cover the sea. *Refrain.*

Please stand as able

**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.**

Let us pray. Creator God,
**you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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:

Holy Holy Holy

From Everlasting Light
Text by Rev. David Eck

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, — God of pow - er, God of
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

From Everlasting Light
Text by Rev. David Eck



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us,
give us your peace. Pre-pare us to re-ieve 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.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain***

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

**O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

**Creator of the stars of night, our people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.**

**When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.**

**At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those I heav'n, shall call you Lord.**

**Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.**

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.

He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gently self. His kindly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.

Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true king's commands. And blessed be the hearts he rules, the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, creator of the world, our only strength for good.

Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide. We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!

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; 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.

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,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

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.**

DISMISSAL

The peace of Christ goes with you on the way.
May you be filled with Advent hope in the promise of
God's Kin-dom, coming and present among us.

Thanks be to God.

*The congregation is invited to be seated for the opening session of the
Annual Congregational Meeting which will last about 5 minutes.*

*Following the meeting, everyone is invited to gather
on the front lawn for refreshments and fellowship.*

People, Look East

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Fling Wide the Door

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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He Came Down

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Holy, Holy, Holy and Lamb of God

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