



# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 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 memory of their parents, Buddy and Barbara Almers and Ed and Kathryn Brune, by Carl and Debbie Brune.

# SERVING TODAY

SERVING TODAY	
Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Austin Blythe
Prayers	Tori Hilbourn
Communion Assistant	Jaime Fivecoat
Cantor	Richard Moose
Acolyte	Paul Godfrey
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Brittany Lampson Maria Roberts Lara Wannemacher
Nursery	Margaret Roth
Praying for Possibilities	Mary Brown and Terry Morgan
Greeters	Mark Allen Deirdre Hixson Tara Miller Jane Mortensen Lyle Mortensen Vicki Rubenstein
Ushers	Samuel Godfrey Pattimarie Janssen Franklin Sease Chris Wannemacher
Video Audio	Henry Wilcox Gregg Alley

About the Second Sunday of Advent:

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

# GATHERING

PRELUDEAwake! Awake, and Greet the New MornJo Lewis, flutesetting for piano and flute by Mark SedioJo Lewis, flute

### 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.

### GATHERING HYMN

### Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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.

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is 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.** 

# ADVENT HYMN



Climb to the highest mountain, Walk in the path of light, All nations shall join together, Rejoice and sing! Refrain The wolf shall befriend the small lamb, The leopard shall rest with the kid. The calf and the lion shall follow The child who guides. Refrain

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Save us from ourselves, from our arrogance, our privilege, our fears, our isolation, our greed, and our need. Heal our brokenness. Open our eyes. Unclog our ears. Soften our hearts. Empower us to make a way for all people...to remove obstacles, level the path, make the ground smooth, create a clear and open way for all to see and experience the redemption of our God. As God in Christ makes a way for us, give us the courage and the desire to make a way for others. **Amen**.

Please be seated

# WORD

Malachi 3:1-4

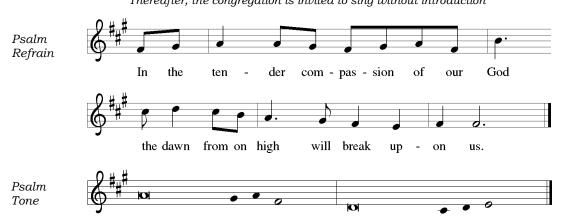
FIRST READING

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the God whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—yes, that very one is coming, says the GOD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of the messenger's coming, and who can stand when that one appears? For the messenger is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>sitting as a refiner and purifier of silver to purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to GOD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to GOD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.** 

The refrain is introduced by the cantor Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction



<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the I God of Israel,

you have come to your people and I set them free.

# <sup>69</sup> You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,

# born of the house of your | servant David. R

- <sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us I from our enemies,
- $^{71}\,\mathrm{from}$  the hands of I all who hate us,
- $^{72}$  to show mercy  $\mid$  to our forebears,

# and to remember your | holy covenant.

- <sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our I father Abraham:
- <sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our I enemies,

### free to worship you | without fear,

# $^{75}$ holy and righteous before you, all the days $\mid$ of our life. R

- <sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of I the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to pre- I pare the way,
- <sup>77</sup> to give God's people knowledge | of salvation by the forgiveness | of their sins.
- <sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion | of our God the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
- $^{79}$  to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad-  $\mid$  ow of death, and to guide our feet into the  $\mid$  way of peace. R

SECOND READING A reading from Philippians.

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

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.** 

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Christmas Blessing

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

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make the way clear.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the twisted shall be untangled,

and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all humankind shall see the salvation of God.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand as able

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Be the God of Israel

#250

God's Dream of Level Ground

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

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.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all your people. As we watch and we wait,

# hear our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Bless cardinals, sparrows, chickadees, blue jays, and other birds who do not migrate to warmer climates for the winter. Graciously fill bird feeders and green spaces with nourishment to sustain winged creatures throughout the winter. As we watch and we wait, **hear our prayer.** 

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Grant lasting peace in Gaza, to Syria, and all nations affected by war. Bring political peace where there is polarization. As we watch and we wait,

hear our prayer.

Comforting God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. We pray for members and friends of this family of faith who find themselves less frequently in this place due to health or other circumstances. As they worship with us online, help them to feel the fullness of this community's love for them and the deep comfort of your presence. Shine the light of your love into the lives of Mary Frances, Chubby, Tad, Becky, Pat, Marilyn, Wayne, Gloria, Ann, Steve, Mary, Ellie, Diane, Herb, and those joining us online whose names we may not know. As we watch and we wait, **hear our prayer**.

Empathizing God, you are with us in our joys and our despair. Help those of us who celebrate this season loudly and boldly to remember that the holidays are, for many, a time of stress, depression, anxiety, and hopelessness. Draw near to anyone struggling with mental health challenges, financial burdens, grief, illness, familial conflict, or ostracization. As we watch and we wait, **hear our prayer.** 

Reforming God, you are clearing a path for all who have been relegated to the margins and who suffer under the cruel fist of oppression. As the Supreme Court heard arguments this week surrounding transgender healthcare, we pray for all those this case will impact. Continue coming among us in ways that help the world to understand that transgender people are your people, bearing your image. Affirm and support parents who seek to support their children's gender identity. As we watch and we wait, **hear our prayer**.

God of Expectations, this community celebrates so much this holiday season, including the impending birth of three precious children of God. Give strength, comfort, and ease to Cassie Castle and her family, Lauren Smithman and her family, and Leah Sommerville and her family as they watch and wait for the birth of their babies this Advent and Christmas season. Grant each family and each forming life the gift of your sustaining presence. As we watch and we wait, **hear our prayer**.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. As we watch and we 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

### Prepare Ye by Marc A. Robinson Bob Schirmer and Russ Wise, soloists

The text is a paraphrase of Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:30, and Luke 3:40.

*Refrain*: Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying? Saying: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

First came the prophet crying in the wilderness, speaking to the people saying: "One is coming both to judge and save, you must prepare the way of the Lord." *Refrain*.

Then came the Baptist crying in the wilderness: "I baptize you with water. But one is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *Refrain.* 

Now we join the crying in the wilderness, Let us lift up our voices saying: "Come Lord Jesus now into our lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord." *Refrain.* 

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

All Earth is Hopeful

#266

# All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador, y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor: es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

# 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!

Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar; y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

# 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.

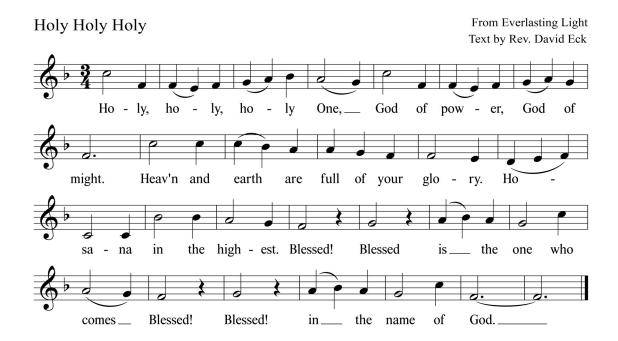
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



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. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness is found in the bread, wine, and the grape juice. 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 wafer into the chalice to receive Communion by intinction.

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

From Everlasting Light Lamb of God Text by Rev. David Eck 0 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 low your fol Re - joice! Re - joice! teach us how to ways. E come to you, O Is ra - el. man u el has © Text 2011 David Eck

> Advent Meditation by Douglas E. Wagner

Handbell Choir

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* 

> Sonata in F Major (HWV 369) Jo Lewis, flute by G. F. Handel

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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.

#249

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel ow, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God, was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Wondrous birth— from his throne, a virgin mild! Very God, and Mary's son eager now his race to run!

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sig eternally!

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

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

Go in peace. Trust that God makes a way for you. In ways both small and large, make a way for others. Do everything in your power to level the path, remove the obstacles, and make God's dream of peace and justice for all come true.

## Thanks be to God.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will begin 5 minutes after the conclusion of worship.

*Everyone is invited to enjoy coffee, juice boxes, and donuts on the front lawn when the meeting is in recess.* 

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## CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell Senior Pastor

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

Patrick D. Preacher Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator Pastoral Intern

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

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Mike Boliek Treasurer

Danny Fagala

Greg Hamluk

Calvin Harmon

Lindsay Hawkins

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Donna Potts Secretary

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