



Lutheran Church & Christian School



The Third Sunday of Advent

**December 17, 2023**

*Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!*

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## Mission Statement

[Who We Are]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School strive to:

**HUMBLY AND KNOWINGLY FOLLOW JESUS,  
SEEKING JOY THROUGH HIM IN WORSHIP,  
TEACHING, AND PRAYER.**



## Vision Statement

[Who We Endeavor to Be]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School endeavor to:

**LIVE [up] BY FAITH, BE KNOWN [out] BY  
CHRIST'S LOVE, and REJOICE [in] HIS  
FORGIVENESS.**

*"Redeemed and restored, we are rejoicing in Jesus!"*

## AS WE GATHER

Advent! A momentous interruption – especially in a world for whom the true meaning of Christmas is lost, a world in the throes of sin, covered over with misplaced cheer that fails to truly satisfy and give us what we need the most. Into such complexity and confusion steps the Lord of heaven and earth, as He did into the lives of all whom He brought into love’s story – even you, child of God, even you! How disturbing such an interruption can be, *unless* it is shrouded in the grace, mercy and peace of the Lord’s coming. Indeed, He has come, coming to us even now! Where, the joy of this season comes in saying “yes” to Him when He calls!

## PRELUDE

**PRE-SERVICE SONG** “He Shall Reign Forevermore” (*Words & Music by Chris Tomlin & Matt Maher © 2015 S.D.G Publishing | sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music*)

*Chorus:           And He shall reign forever-more, forever-more;  
                      And He shall reign forever-more, forever-more.  
                      Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
                      And He shall reign forever-more, forever-more.*

## THE BELLS CALL GOD’S PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## INVOCATION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

Pastor:                   In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation:       Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

Pastor: The Lord almighty has done great things, and holy is His name.

**Congregation: We thank You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord's mercy falls on those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

**Congregation: We adore You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord still shows the strength of His arm.

**Congregation: We praise You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord helps His servants, in remembrance of His mercy.

**Congregation: We worship You, O Lord!**

*Silence for personal reflection and meditation.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

**Congregation: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

✂ WORD ✂

**ENTRANCE PSALM**    *Psalm 89:1*

Pastor:                    I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

**Congregation:**        **with my mouth, I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”        [TLH 64; TUNE: LSB 839]

Jesus, Your Church with longing eyes for Your expected coming waits.  
When will the promised light arise and glory beam from heaven’s gates?

E’en now, when tempests round us fall and wintry clouds o’ercast the sky,  
Your words with pleasure we recall and know that our redemption’s nigh.

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, our sins forgive, our foes suppress,  
Our rooted enmity subdue, and crown Your Gospel with success.

Teach us in watchfulness and prayer to wait for Your appointed hour,  
And fit us by Your grace to share the triumphs of Your conqu’ring pow’r.

*(Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt. Public domain)*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor:                    The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Congregation:**        **And also with you.**

Pastor:                    Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us with Your presence.  
Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and grant us a deep and  
abiding peace for all of our days. By the working of the Holy  
Spirit, lead us to share the joy that is ours without hesitation.  
Keep us in true faith until the coming of Your glorious kingdom,  
where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

**Congregation:**        **Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND BLESSING**

- <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*(Final instructions and benediction.)*

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** “A Carol Medley”

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2:6-7 *(The announcement of Jesus’ birth.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**

*Please see PowerPoint slides or back cover of the hymnal.*

**SERMON HYMN** “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

*LSB 839, St. 1-3*

*For this, and all subsequent hymns, please see the PowerPoint slides or the hymnal.*

**Notes:**

- 1. The Magi: Jesus makes the journey, bringing precious gifts.** (John 1:14; 3:16)
- 2. The Shepherds: Jesus proclaims the Good News for all.** (Luke 2:10; 4:43)
- 3. Joseph: Jesus chooses mercy over the Law.** (Matthew 9:13)
- 4. Mary: Jesus chose God’s will over His own.** (Luke 1:38; John 6:38; Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42)
- 5. Jesus: By God’s grace, we are led to these things as well.** (John 14:12; Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 10:8)

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**    *“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”*

*LSB 839, St. 4-5*

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

Pastor:                      Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the good news that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, be gracious to us.

**Congregation:**        **Hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor:                      We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule, there may be times of peace. We pray for our own nation, that we may find joy in that which is done through it by the leaders and by the people. Lord, be gracious to us.

**Congregation:**        **Help us, good Lord.**



Pastor: We pray for all those situations we encounter in our daily lives that the joy of Jesus may be evident in all that we say and do.  
Lord, we ask You,

**Congregation: Show kindness to us and hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: For all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors in eternal peace and joy, serving as witnesses of Your never-ending care, we bless You, O Lord.

**Congregation: Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Additional petitions and praises are offered.*

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

*We share that peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “Child in the Manger” *(Words by Mary Macdonald; Music Trad. Gaelic Tune)*

1. Child in the manger, Infant of Mary, Outcast and Stranger, Lord of all,  
Child who inherits all our transgressions, all our demerits upon Him fall.
2. Once the most holy Child of salvation gently and lowly lived here below.  
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer, see Him victorious over each foe.
3. Prophets foretold Him, Infant of Wonder; angels behold Him upon His throne.  
Worthy our Savior of all our praises; happy forever are all His own.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

**Congregation: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You fulfilled Your promise of a Savior by sending Your Son to be David's greater Son, who rules and reigns over all things for ever and ever. Confident of Your compassion for us, we rejoice to be gathered in Your name and remembrance, even as we are bold to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

*Please see PowerPoint slides or inside back cover of the hymnal.*

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Pastor: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. *Rev. 19:9a, NIV*

**Congregation: Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the Word and I shall be healed. Matthew 8:8, paraphrased**

### PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation: Amen.**

# HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Lamb of God"

LSB, p. 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION

*For those desiring to receive the LORD'S SUPPER today, please refer to the laminated card in the pew racks. Those not receiving Communion are still invited to come forward for a blessing. At the Communion rail, simply bow your head to receive a blessing.*

*At the time of Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. For those receiving the individual cups, a non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center of each tray. Following the passing of the individual cups, the common cup is offered for those who wish to commune in that manner.*

**All who are communing** are encouraged to review the Sacrament of the Altar on pp. 326-327, and the Questions on pp. 329-330, in the front of the hymnal.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN “Glory Be to God the Father”***LSB 506, St. 4*

4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of  
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!  
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,  
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that Your promises have been fulfilled among us today. Give us joy in knowing that the same Savior who came to us in flesh, still comes to us today, fulfilling Your promise to abide with us even to eternity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation:** **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** *Psalm 89:1; Numbers 6:24-26*

**Pastor:** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever.

**Congregation:** **With my mouth, I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Congregation:** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come”***LSB 332, St. 1-2, 5, 8*

**Trinity Calendar for Dec 17-Dec 24, 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study: "Songs of the Savior" <i>(The O Antiphons)</i> and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
<b>Monday</b>	4:00 pm	Book Club
<b>Tuesday</b>	5-6:30 pm	Men's Wings Bible Study and meal: "Gospel Parallels- The Value of Repeated Accounts from Jesus' Life"
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>No school: teacher workshop</b> <b>TCS Christmas Break Begins</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study: "Race to Glory" <i>(Book of Hebrews)</i>
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 am	Men of Christ Bible Study: "The Chosen: Bible Roundtable"
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Coffee and fellowship w/Pastor <i>(No Bible Study or S. Sch)</i>
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service w/Holy Communion
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion



The flowers this morning are given  
By Ted and Wanda Chabott  
In memory of Jim Schumann and Betty Chabott  
And Christine Klauck  
In honor of Michael Klauck

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **ATTENDANCE 12-10: 83**

**Families of the week:** *The Rieseler, Rowe-Carroll and Scadova families*

### **Birthdays:**

- 17 Dec—Sharon Cooper
- 18 Dec—Gloria Stewart
- 23 Dec—Terry Fuller

### **Anniversaries:**

- 18 Dec—Pastor Ed and Miriam Harkey

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Would you like to bless a teacher at Trinity Christian School? Our teachers do a tremendous job of teaching academics as well as the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Along the way, they encounter needs for their classrooms.

You can help by giving a gift for the Teacher Tree.



Starting Nov. 20, there will be a Christmas tree with tags hanging on it in the foyer outside the TCS office. Each tag will anonymously list a request made by one of the teachers for their classroom—anything from glue sticks to toys or puzzles for their students. If you wish to bless them, simply take a tag, purchase the item, and place it unwrapped under the tree by Dec. 19. Unclaimed tags will be fulfilled by the TCS PTFA. All items will then be distributed sometime in Jan. You will have blessed one of our precious teachers, and the students they teach! For help or more information, contact Mitch after Sunday Worship or through the church office, or Amber Ruczko at [aruczko@tcskeene.com](mailto:aruczko@tcskeene.com). Thank you for your consideration.



The LWML Mission Project Group has been working hard on the Christmas card angels that we will be distributing to the various homes.

Please see the bulletin board for the extra ones that we made to share with the congregation. Please take one for yourself or to share with someone. It is our joy to share them with all of you. Thank you.

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## A CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS

Concordia University is thrilled to let you know that we have 630 airings of A Concordia Christmas on PBS stations across the country this December. This includes several airings in the New England District. The performance is called "A Thrill of Hope", and is a vocal and instrumental celebration of Christmas performed by Concordia University in Irvine, CA.

For stations, and dates and times of showings throughout December, please check your local PBS show listings. Additionally, our brand new show "Navidad! A Concordia Christmas" is available any time at [//CUI.edu/christmas](http://CUI.edu/christmas)



## **Church Office**

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**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
*Phone (603) 762-8201*

**School Office**  
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[principal@tcskeene.com](mailto:principal@tcskeene.com)

**School Administrative Assistant** – Emily Lester  
[tcs@tcskeene.com](mailto:tcs@tcskeene.com)

**Organist** - Rita Corey  
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## **Elders**

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**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
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Lonnie Geer  
*Phone: (603) 370-8928*

Lenny Kosakowski  
*Phone (603) 852-6702*

Larry Miller  
*Phone (603) 357 4746*

## **Altar Guild**

**Co-leaders:**  
Jean Henderson  
*Phone (603) 352-8716*

Paula Miller  
*Phone (603) 357-4746*

## **Ministry Teams**

**“Up” Team Leader** - Erik Neilssen  
*Phone (917) 520-9768*

**“In” Team Leader** - Miriam Harkey  
*Phone (508) 813-8212*

**“Out” Team Leader** - Jason Bueckner  
*Phone (802) 598-5678*

## **Executive Team**

**President** - Lonnie Geer  
*Phone (603) 370-8928*

**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
*Phone (603) 762-8201*

**Head Trustee** – Larry Miller  
*Phone (603) 762-2923*

**Treasurer** - *Vacant*

**School Board Chair** - Marcia Scadova  
*Phone (603) 313-6277*

**Recording Secretary** - Judy Taylor  
*Phone (603) 876-9447*

## **School Board**

**Chair** - Marcia Scadova  
*Phone (603) 313-6277*

**Vice-Chair** *Vacant*

**Treasurer** - Tom Abert  
*Phone (603) 381-8840*

Joyce Gray  
*Phone (603) 812-5264*



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