

The Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2023



Knowing Christ's Love ... Seeking His Will ... Spreading His Word

Warm greetings to you, dear worshipper, in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the blessings of His presence and His peace be with you throughout this week.

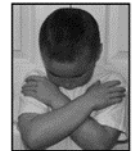
Preparation for the Lord's Supper



Holy Communion is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that with the bread and the wine **we also truly receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. We call this belief the Doctrine of the Real Presence. Through the gift of Communion, the Lord bestows on us the forgiveness of sins and strengthens our union with Him and with one another.

Our Lord desires that those who commune should know and believe what they are receiving in Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:29), should be instructed in God's Word so that they can properly examine themselves prior to communing (1 Corinthians 11:28), and should be united as one body in the faith (Acts 2:42 and 1 Corinthians 10:17).

Out of our heartfelt desire that all who commune at this altar be well prepared for Holy Communion, this congregation practices "close communion." All who are presently communicant members in a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and those Lutheran churches that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS are warmly invited to join us in Communion. All other guests are warmly invited to come to the communion rail for a blessing from the Pastor. Please cross your arms at the rail to receive the blessing.



We invite guests to visit with the pastor about how we may commune together in the future.



Communicants may receive the wafer by having it placed directly into the mouth or by having it placed in the palm of the hand. If the communicant wishes to take the individual cup, please take one from the tray when the elder comes to your place at the communion rail. Drink from the individual cup only when the pastor/elder comes to your place at the communion rail with the chalice and speaks the words of distribution. If the communicant wishes to receive the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray carried by the elder.

The Lord has given His people the gift of His Body and His Blood in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (St. Matthew 26:28). However, if an individual is allergic or intolerant to wheat or fermented wine, it is difficult to participate in this great fellowship. Should you be one of these individuals, we gladly provide gluten-free and alcohol-removed wine so that you are able to receive these gifts of God with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Guests: If you are a guest worshiping with us today, we are honored to have you join us in receiving the rich blessings that our Lord supplies to us through the gift of His holy Word. We invite you to return and worship with us again as the opportunity arises.



Children: Parents and their children are welcome to sit in the front of the church so that the children can see and hear the service clearly. The Family Room in the Narthex may be used by anyone who prefers or needs a more private setting.

Prayer Requests: If you have an intercession to add to our weekly prayers at church or to our daily Prayer Chain, please contact the Church Office or fill out one of the prayer request cards located in your pew and place it in the offering collection box.



Publications: We invite you to read our Trinity Weekly News and visit our bulletin boards for info about church activities. Publications including our monthly newsletter are available from the information stand in the Narthex and at various locations in the hallway.

Accessibility: A lift (slow-moving elevator) is located just outside the sanctuary overflow area for those who prefer not to take the stairs to the lower level. Ushers and many church members can assist with the operation of the lift.



Audio Assistance: We provide hearing-assist and closed captioning devices for the hearing impaired. If you would like to try these devices to see if they will enhance your worship experience, they are located in the Narthex. Digital recordings of the weekly service are available on Facebook (trinitylutherancomo) and YouTube (TrinityCoMo).



Serving in God's House Today:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Liturgist: | Rev. Joseph McCalley |
| Preacher: | Rev. Brian Thieme |
| Elders: | (8:00) Carey Smith (10:30) David Attebery |
| Ushers: | (8:00) Kyle Dickes & Hunter Kevil (10:30) Karl Christopher & Eddie Sterling |
| Organist: | Bonnie Lawler |
| Handbell Director: | Kimberly Walker |
| Altar Guild: | Carol Squires & Carolyn Trigg |

Order of Service: Divine Service I – LSB 151

Bells' Call to Worship

Word of Welcome

Handbell Prelude

Hymn of Invocation

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

C Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back
to folly.

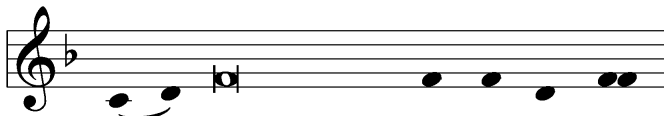
P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

C Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

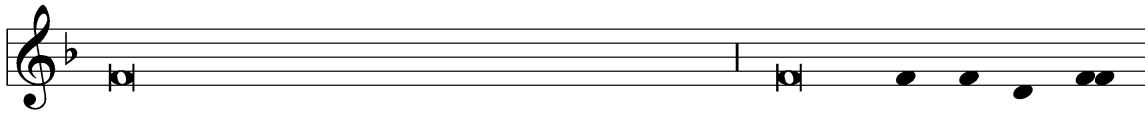
P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



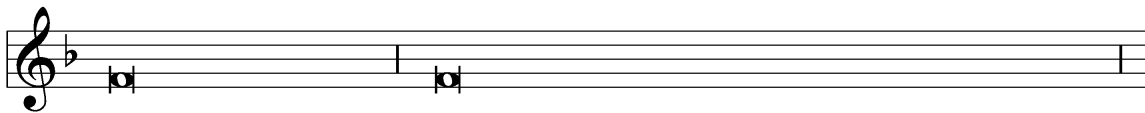
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



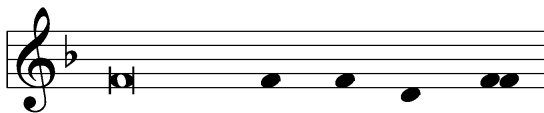
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



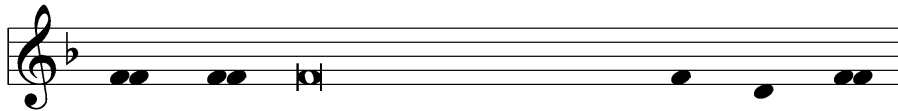
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The 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;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

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

²³Now 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. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156




C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon “I Will Greatly Rejoice in the Lord” *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering & Offertory

LSB 159

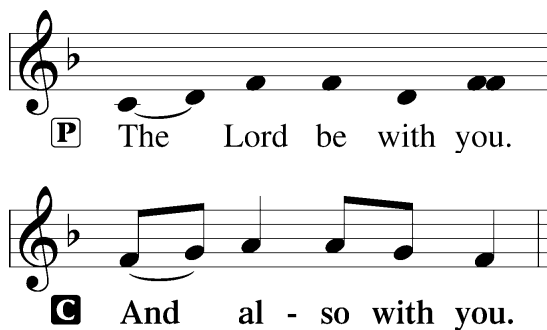


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

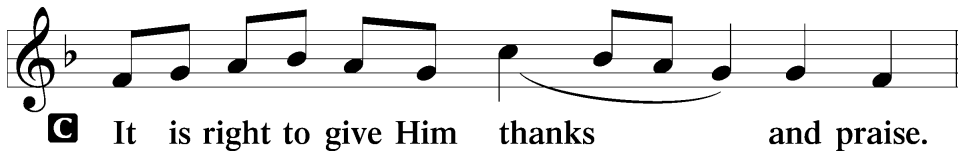
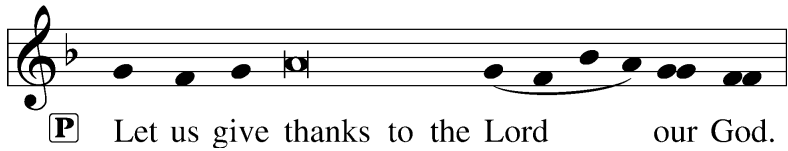
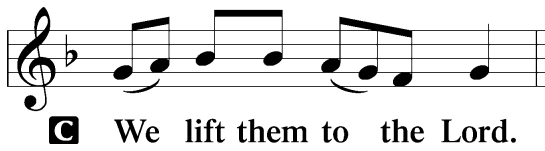
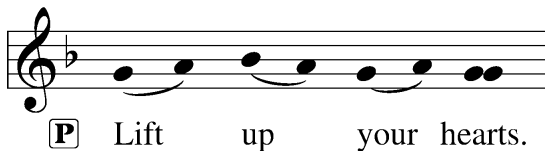
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161





comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

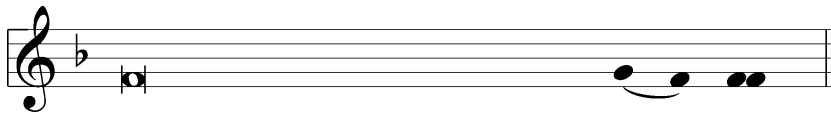
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

LSB 621 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Distribution Hymn

LSB 620 *Jesus Comes Today with Healing*



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Stand

Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

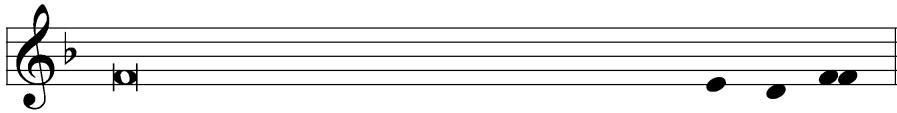
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



P 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.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

LSB 354 Arise, O Christian People

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -

day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed

sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come

truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Organ Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Trinity Weekly News

Volume VII, Issue 3

Trinity Lutheran Church — Columbia, MO

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December 17 & 18, 2023



The chancel flowers this week are sponsored
by Ron & Barbara Barrett in honor of their
46th wedding anniversary



This Week at Trinity:

Sunday 12/17

Advent III

8:00 a.m.—Divine Service +Comm
9:30 a.m.—Bible Study & Sun. School
10:30 a.m.—Divine Service +Comm
12:00 p.m.—Potluck Lunch & AOV
3:00 p.m.—Youth Christmas Party
5:30 p.m.—Men's Chorus
6:00 p.m.—Choir Practice
6:00 p.m.—JCC

Monday 12/18

9:00 a.m.—Bible Study
1:15 p.m.—GLAT
6:00 p.m.—Divine Service +Comm.

Tuesday 12/19

5:30 p.m.—Pickleball
5:30 p.m.—Sound Words/Adult Cat.

Wednesday 12/20

9:00 a.m.—TLCLC Chapel
12:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent
7:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent

Thursday 12/21

7:00 a.m.—Men's Bible Study
11:00 a.m.—Communion @ Lenoir
5:30 p.m.—Pickleball
6:00 p.m.—Board of Evangelism
7:00 p.m.—Board of Elders

Friday 12/22

Pastors' day off

Sunday 12/24

Advent IV

8:00 a.m.—Divine Service +Comm
9:30 a.m.—Bible Study & Sun. School
10:30 a.m.—Divine Service +Comm

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service
11:00 p.m.—Divine Service +Comm

Monday 12/25

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.—Divine Service +Comm



Advent & Christmas Services

Wednesday December 20

12:00 pm — Midweek Advent Service

7:00 pm — Midweek Advent Service

Sunday December 24th: Advent IV

8:00 am — Divine Service +Comm.

10:30 am — Divine Service +Comm.

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm — Christmas Eve Service
+Communion

Monday December 25th: Christmas

9:00 am — Divine Service +Comm.

Sunday December 31st New Year's Eve

8:00 am — Divine Service +Comm.

10:30 am — Divine Service +Comm.

7:00 pm — Divine Service + Comm.

Are you a *Lutheran Witness* subscriber? Would you like to be? Please let the church office know if you would like to start or renew a subscription. Cost is \$20.65/year (\$1.60/issue) for 11 issues. If interested, please contact the church office via email (church@trinity-lcms.org) or phone (573) 445-2112 **no later than January 31, 2024!**



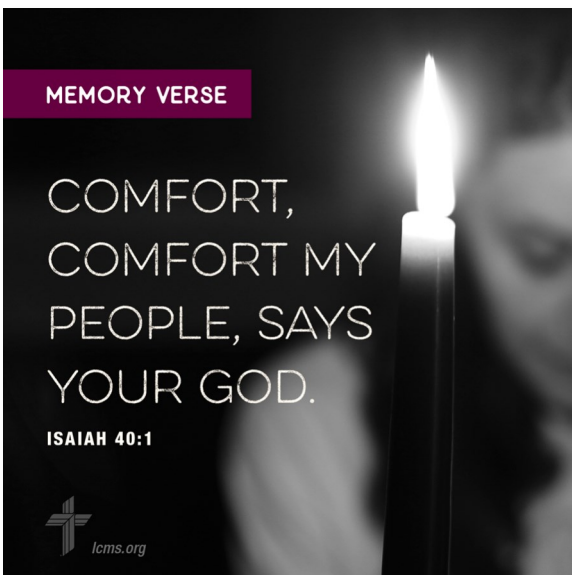
Payment can be done via check or cash, using the Lutheran Witness envelope included with your contribution envelopes. If paying by check, please put 'Lutheran Witness' on the memo line. Thank you!



Men's Thursday Bible Study

The Thursday morning Men's Bible Study is studying *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions – A Reader's Edition of The Book of Concord (second edition)*, starting with Luther's Large Catechism. If you have an individual copy of *Concordia*, bring it along but there should be enough copies for each attendee (church copies). We will use the same format as with The Lutheran Study Bible; i.e., we will read each section together and discuss the doctrine using the *Concordia* notes.

Please plan on joining us and remember, we start at **7:00 am each Thursday.**





2024 Member Contribution Envelopes

Please pick up your box of envelopes for 2024 off the tables in the overflow area. There are new numbers for many of our members, so **do not use these envelopes until 2024**.

If your address on the box is absent or incorrect, please contact the church office to update it. Thank you!

If you cannot locate your box, please let the Financial Secretary know and she will be happy to assist you.

Sunday School Christmas Program: Sign Ups & Rehearsals

The Board of Christian Ed is looking for Sunday School kids to participate in the Christmas Eve service. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the Church Office.

Practice times are as follows:

- Sunday, December 17: during the Sunday School hour
- Thursday, December 21: dinner (pizza) at 5:15-6 pm, practice from 6-7 pm



A big **Thank You!** to those who helped to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas:

- Betty Buchheit
- Norman Gephardt
- Debbie Harms
- Karen Niederjohn
- Mary Riggert
- Carey & Patty Smith
- Pattie Smith
- Carol Squires
- Carolyn Trigg
- Phyllis White

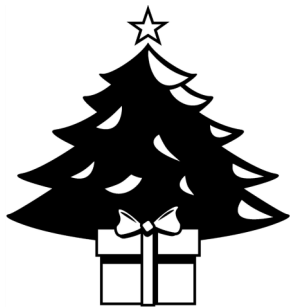
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For
God so
loved the
world, that he
gave his only Son,
that whoever believes
in him should not perish
but have eternal life.

John
3:16

LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (LFCS) "SEASON OF HOPE TREE"



SEASON OF HOPE

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Mid-Missouri is grateful to again be partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church in gifts and donations during this Advent Season. Your support of LFCS allows children right here in our community to find safe and loving homes. LFCS also offers essential counseling services for parents to equip them with parenting tools and empower them to provide for their children. The individuals and families requesting LCFS's Christ centered services in Columbia has continued to increase making the opportunity to assist with this ministry even more important. Every effort of LCFC is touching children's lives and all donations will stay in the Columbia area. We have put a "Season of Hope Tree" in the hallway with tags on it representing items needed. If you are able to take a tag(s), add the items to your shopping list, and place them under the tree --THANK YOU! If you would rather make a monetary donation, please put it in an envelope marked for LFCS and place it in the offering box. Our wishes for you and your family to have a blessed Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.

Myra McCoig, on behalf of LFCS

Life Thoughts

December 17 – Advent III – Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

Stewardship & Scripture

December 17 – Advent 3

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – **"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."** Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord's work, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

Brought to you by LCMS Stewardship Ministry and Trinity's Board of Stewardship & Finance

✠ CONGREGATION AT PRAYER ✠

The “Congregation at Prayer” is intended to be a daily devotional resource for use in the home. The primary goal is to strengthen biblical literacy and catechesis, but also clarify the themes of the liturgical (church) year. The Lectionary Preview study intended to prepare for the coming Sunday. The Congregation at Prayer intends develop throughout the week what is heard on Sunday morning. The advantage of this is that it’ll get us reading more of the Scripture. The downside is that it won’t provide as much formal study as the Lectionary Preview. The challenge with this project will be that much of the content (readings, psalms) depend on the historic one year cycle. Not as much has been developed to study the three-year lectionary (which is what we use on Sundays), and the content and themes are sometimes very different, so it’s going to be a little bit like trying to make a dog and a cat kiss each other.

I’m not sure where the name “Congregation at Prayer” came from, but it seems to be in use at many congregations. In any case, the name helps communicate that our shared prayer and worship life as the body of Christ gathered at Trinity continues in the home throughout the week until we are drawn back together on the next Lord’s Day. This will be a work in progress, so please accept my apologies in advance for unannounced changes. If you have suggestions on any aspect of this project, input is most welcome. This week, I provide an orientation page (below); an order of service for home worship (on a half page in *TWN*) and the (test!) schedule for the Third Week in Advent. – *Pastor McCalley*

1. Calendar —→ The calendar provides the time of the church year and notes about the season. It will include feasts, festivals, and commemorations that are part of the church year, but usually don’t get much attention. These are on pages xi-xii in the front of the hymnal, and I’ll try to include the Bible readings for that day.
2. Theme of the Week —→ A weekly theme attempts to unite the Bible readings and the emphasis of the current date of the church year.
3. Prayer of the Week —→ The prayer of the week will be the Collect of the Day prayed on Sunday.
4. Weekly Psalm —→ Two Psalms per week are given for prayer: one at morning and one at evening.
5. Daily Readings —→ The weekly reading schedule are taken from a daily Lutheran devotional *Daily Prayer* (1986). The readings are usually from a particular book of the Bible. There are two (morning and evening) given per day.
6. Daily Catechism —→ The Catechism study aims to cover the chief teachings of the Bible as organized in the Small Catechism. This was developed by Pastor Greg Truwe who currently serves at Trinity in Cole Camp, Missouri. The Catechism section will usually not correspond to the church year. This section is especially intended for families with children.
7. Hymn of the Week —→ The hymn of the week, sometimes selected stanzas, serves to emphasize the liturgical themes of the week.
8. Readings for the Coming Sunday —→ The readings for the coming Sunday.

✠ CONGREGATION AT PRAYER ✠

CHURCH YEAR CALENDAR The general theme of the Advent season is “The Coming of Christ.” The Third Sunday in Advent (formerly named “Gaudete” in Latin) means “rejoice!” Our subdued/somber time of waiting for the Christ child’s Incarnation is given a brief reprieve and the “pink” candle is lighted. Congregations may use rose-colored paraments and vestments this day. In the one year reading schedule, the Gospel reading is John the Baptist’s imprisonment—now there’s solid teaching on how to rejoice in all circumstances!

Feasts, Festivals, & Commemorations

December 21 – St. Thomas, Apostle (Judges 6:36-40; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16; John 20:24-29)

THEME OF THE WEEK “The Lord has Come as Long Promised.” The Propers of the Day (the Introit, the Collect of the Day, Gradual, Scripture readings) address the past coming of Christ into human flesh to redeem all humanity, as God had long promised. John’s preaching of repentance and his baptizing rightly prepared those who listened for the coming of Christ. They rejoiced in spirit and in truth because Jesus’ coming means true forgiveness, true reconciliation with God the Father. Here is true liberty, true freedom. As with all of Advent we are reminded that Jesus comes to us through His Word, and in His body and blood in the Sacrament. We look forward to His final bodily coming in glory to bring our Baptisms to their full completion.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WEEKLY PSALMS

Morning Psalm

Psalm 85

Evening Psalm

Psalm 14

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday Isaiah 32:1-8; Revelation 15
Tuesday Isaiah 35; Revelation 20
Wednesday Isaiah 40:1-18; Revelation 21
Thursday Isaiah 40:21-31; Revelation 22
Friday Isaiah 42:1-12; Luke 1:1-25
Saturday Isaiah 43:1-13; Luke 1:26-38

DAILY CATECHISM

Theme of the Week: Handing Down the Faith

Monday Jude 1:1-4
Tuesday 1 Timothy 6:3-5
Wednesday Deuteronomy 6:4-15
Thursday Luke 18:15-17
Friday 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Questions for the Readings: What does the daily reading teach about the importance of the Christian faith? What is necessary to teach? What is the source of faith? Who is to be taught? Should teaching every stop? How does one generation ensure the next generation is taught?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

READINGS FOR ADVENT 4 (12/24)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

✠ CONGREGATION AT PRAYER ✠

The following is a brief Order of Service that may be used for guiding home devotion and study. I hope to make this into a printed and laminated card for distribution. The Hymn of the Week fits nicely in several places: before or after the Invocation, the Scripture Readings, after the Lord's Prayer, or the Benedicamus.

Invocation *In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Morning or Evening Psalm

Prayer of the Week

Daily Bible Readings and/or Daily Catechism

Apostle's Creed

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Lord's Prayer

Benedicamus Domino *Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Collections for Community Missions

Thank you for your generous donations to our community missions! Please continue to collect and donate the items listed below. You can place them in the labeled bins inside the Christian Resource Center (brown unit in the hallway). If you need assistance getting the items to Trinity or have other suggestions for collections, please contact the Church Office.

- *Bibles and Devotional Materials*
- *Canceled postage stamps including Forever stamps (No Love or Christmas)*
- *Coupons with no expiration date*
- *Eyeglasses you no longer use*
- *Food (nonperishable, no glass containers)*
- *Soda & Soup Can Pop Tops*



Radio & Podcast Resources

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler proclaims the salvation story of Jesus every week to hundreds of thousands of listeners. The Lutheran Hour weekly half-hour program can be heard on www.lhm.org, on their mobile app, or Sundays on several area radio stations:

8:00 a.m. on **KMCV 89.9FM**

8:00 a.m. on **KLTE 107.9FM**

9:00 a.m. on **KMCR 103.9FM**

10:00 a.m. on **KMMO 1300AM**

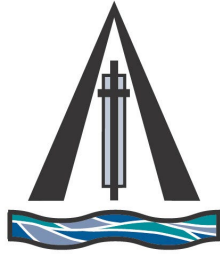
KFUO Lutheran Radio

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Look ahead to the Fourth Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (12/20 at 9:00 a.m. CT), dive into Advent hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study 1 Corinthians 15-16 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT). The 12 Days of Christmas begins December 24 with music and messages for the Christmas Season! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or the



LOOKING FORWARD TO SUNDAY MORNING...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to weekly studies of the Biblical texts, prayers and hymns of the day. Pastor Sean Daenzer of LCMS Worship leads us through the three-year lectionary. Pastor Will Weedon of "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever" leads us through the one-year lectionary. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



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