





Sunday, December 20, 2020

Advent 4

**Worship focus:** *Christmas Came Anyway:  
Even when there's family conflict.*

**OPENING HYMN**

343 – “Christ Is the World’s Light” (verses 1 & 4)  
(The “Amen” is sung after the last hymn only.)

**1. Christ is the world's light,  
Christ and none other;  
Born in our darkness,  
he became our brother.  
If we have seen him,  
we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high!**

**4. Give God the glory,  
God and none other;  
Give God the glory,  
Spirit, Son, and Father;  
Give God the glory,  
God with us, my brother:  
Glory to God on high!**

*Please stand.*

**INVOCATION**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** (*spoken*) Amen.

**CONFESSION**

**P:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **FIRST LESSON – Genesis 36: 6-12**

*God carried Jacob through massive family conflict.*

<sup>6</sup> Esau took his wives and sons and daughters and all the members of his household, as well as his livestock and all his other animals and all the goods he had acquired in Canaan, and moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob. <sup>7</sup> Their possessions were too great for them to remain together; the land where they were staying could not support them both because of their livestock. <sup>8</sup> So Esau (that is, Edom) settled in the hill country of Seir. <sup>9</sup> This is the account of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir. <sup>10</sup> These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz, the son of Esau's wife Adah, and Reuel, the son of Esau's wife Basemath. <sup>11</sup> The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam and Kenaz. <sup>12</sup> Esau's son Eliphaz also had a concubine named Timna, who bore him Amalek. These were grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.

*“The Angel Gabriel” – musical selection performed by Steve Rausch, David Baumann,  
and Dan Webb.*

## **SECOND LESSON – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*When there's conflict, we find reconciliation in Christ.*

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

P: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

*Please stand.*

P: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 1.

C: **(spoken) Glory be to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL – Matthew 1:18-25

*It looked like their family was falling apart, but God intervened. Christmas came anyway.*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **(spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

23 – “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1 & 4)

**1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**4. Oh, 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Sermon**Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Theme: Be With Us, Lord Jesus.

1. Save us from our family's misunderstandings.
2. Unite our family with your peace.

*Please stand.*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**Offering plates are near the exits for you to place your thank-offering.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE SACRAMENT**

#### **PREFACE**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

- 1 O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.**
- 2 Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage — Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

**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 your peace. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Please stand.*

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen (spoken)**

**HYMN**

56 – “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (verses 1 & 3)

**1. Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place –  
Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found his favor.**

**3. Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled,  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth,  
Hail the King of glory! Amen.**

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Matt Nowak  
Office: 419-326-4402  
Cell: 419-302-5271  
Email: [pastormattn@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattn@gmail.com)

Church/School Secretary  
School Office: 419-326-4685  
Email: [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org)  
Website: [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

**GREETERS**

today are:

Christmas Eve:  
Christmas Day:  
Next Sunday:

Mark & Kati Curth – Early Service  
Mike & Jill Woodward – Late Service  
James & Deb Reichley  
John & Janet Weihrach  
Barb Roidt & Ruth Marquart – Early  
Charlotte Brown & Janice Rausch – Late

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE** (week of December 13, 2020)

Total Worship Attendance: 152; Early: 84; Late: 68; Adult Bible Study: 25; Teen Bible Study: 5.  
On-line worship service views for December 6 were 70.

**MONEY COUNTERS** for this morning through January 2 are the members of Craig von Stein’s Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, January 3 will be the members of David Bower’s Undershepherd group.

**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY** (December 20 – December 27)

**TODAY Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30;** Communion; Adult Bible Study 9:20; Teen Bible Class 9:20.

**MON** Mornings with Mommy 9:30; Church Council 7:00; Newsletter articles due.

**TUE** Mornings with Mommy 9:30; On-line Catechism 6:30.

**WED** Christmas Eve Children’s Service 1:00; Handbells 6:30.

**THU** Christmas Eve Children’s Service 7:00.

**FRI** Christmas Day Service 9:30.

**SUN** **Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30;** WELS Connection; Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study 9:20.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The Bible teaches us that Holy Communion is a public demonstration of participants’ united confession of the Bible’s teachings (1 Cor. 10:17). Since we strive to follow all that the Bible teaches, we believe that members of this congregation or the WELS or ELS synod are united in the true teaching and may commune together. All guests should speak with a pastor before Communion, to first determine if unity of faith exists. We’re eager to establish a unity of faith and to declare this oneness at Communion with you.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** are due Monday, December 21 (tomorrow).

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S SERVICE** will be December 23, 1:00pm and December 24 at 7:00pm. Things will be a little different this year- the children’s presentation will be recorded and shown on the screens for each service. Join us as we hear the message of Jesus, the Light of the World, through this special program “Light for Our Darkness”. The service will be posted on-line by 7:00pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** is December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be televised live in the church basement, for overflow seating. If you feel uncomfortable sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to make use of the two TVs in the basement- one in the main room and one in the classroom. The Christmas Day service will also be posted on-line by 7:00pm on Christmas day.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE** Holy Communion worship will be celebrated Thursday, December 31, at 7:00pm. Close the year praising your Lord for all His grace to you in 2020!

**CHRISTMAS SHUT-IN DONATIONS** - Anyone wishing to donate items may place them in the tote located by the south entrance of the church by December 31st. Suggested items include: body-lotion, powder or soap, emery boards, Chapstick, mouth wash, shampoo, facial tissues, boost/ensure, candy, or monetary (cash in an envelope) gifts. *Non-perishable* items only, please. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Weihrauch, Mary Ann Gallant, Mary Heldman or Stacy Heldman from the Ladies Aid Committee.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex through today. Please retrieve them and double check the address. If the address is incorrect, please contact Clark Inniger at 419-306-0127 or email [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org) or [cdinniger@roadrunner.com](mailto:cdinniger@roadrunner.com). After today, the envelopes will be in the basement. *These are not for use until 2021.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS, PARTY!** Come celebrate Jesus' birthday at the next Mornings with Mommy on Monday, December 21 or Tuesday, December 22. Bring your children/grandchildren to hear the story of Jesus' birth, stack presents, make a Christmas star ornament, have pretend birthday cake, and use play dough with cookie cutters. Register online at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org) or call 262-391-7994.

**BOX PICK UP:** Christmas for Kids boxes are ready for pick up. If you registered for a Christmas for Kids box, there is a box with your name on it in the church basement! If you are unable to pick up your box after church today, you can pick it up at school (gym doors) during one of these other pick-up times:

Sunday, December 20—1:00-2:00PM and Monday, December 21—5:30-6:30PM

Questions—contact Jenny Boehm (262) 391-7994 or [mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org](mailto:mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org).

**WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School lesson packets for three-year-olds, containing lessons 14-18, are available for pick up in the narthex. Packets are labeled with each child's name and are on the left side of the table. Sunday School for Pre-school through 8th grade continues by lessons-on-video at [nph.net/ss-at-home](http://nph.net/ss-at-home). The Bible lesson for today/this week is #2, "God Gives Gideon Victory," which is the second lesson in the new packet. Winter packets of lessons that go with the videos, can be picked up for Pre-school through 8th grade from a table in the narthex. May God bless your child/children as we together continue to share His love.

**THANK YOU:** The family of Merritt Nessler would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards during his illness and death. They were all very much appreciated.

## THE ADVENT WREATH

*The fourth Advent candle is called the Angel Candle. It represents the final coming of the Savior in glory with all His angels to take all those who believe in Him to everlasting life in heaven. Read Matthew 25:31-34.*

### CALL RESPONSES

*Dear Member of Trinity Lutheran Church,*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I once again thank you for calling me to be your pastor and I enjoyed the telephone conversations I had with the members I spoke with and with Pastor Nowak. It certainly is a blessing to take time and evaluate where I am and the work I am doing in our Lord's church. However, the Lord has led me to return the call to be pastor at Trinity Lutheran and remain at Faith Lutheran. I truly believe that the Lord will continue to bless your ministries and I will continue to keep you in my prayers. May the anticipation of the celebration of our Savior's birth bring you the joy that can only come from our loving God.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Matthew J. Schaewe

---

*Dear Members of Trinity,*

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, I received a call to be principal and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at your school. I thank God for the opportunity to learn about Trinity and the work that is going on there. From what I have heard, you are blessed beyond measure to have such a successful congregation and school. The ministry at Trinity and at my current school, St. Matthew's, is important always, but even more so during the uncertain times we have been experiencing lately. Through much prayerful consideration, I have decided to return the call to be principal and 7-8 teacher at Trinity and will continue to serve the Lord in Iron Ridge. I know that the Lord will continue to bless you and your children in Jenera. Thank you for the opportunity to deliberate the call to your school. I have enjoyed speaking with the school leaders and teachers there and learning about your congregation. It is such a blessing to know that God's children are being taught all over the world! I also want to thank you all for the many prayers you have said for me. I will keep Trinity in my prayers as you continue the calling process.

May God continue to bless you through this process and into the future. To God be the glory!

In Christ, Kevin Lorge