





Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent

### Theme of the Day:

*Christmas Check-list: Christmas is Rooted in Repentance*

*Congregation sings or speaks the bolded text*

## Choir Sings "I Hear the Prophet Calling" (2nd Service)

### 308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

*CW 308*

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt. Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988 Text: Public domain Tune: © 1938 Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Confession

P: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

**C: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

P: Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

P: If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.**

## 274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW93- 274

1 My soul now magnifies the Lord;  
My spirit shall in God rejoice.  
My humble state he did regard,  
Exalting me by gracious choice.

P: God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

P: Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son  $\dagger$  and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## 274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW93- 274

4 He brings down rulers from their seat  
And raises those of low degree.  
He fills the hungry souls with meat;  
The rich depart in poverty.

### The Advent Wreath

P: We light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

P: We hear his call to repent.

**C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.**

## 274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW93- 274

6 So praise with me the Holy One,  
Who comes in all humility.  
To our Redeemer, God's own Son,  
Be glory in eternity!

*Please stand.*

## The Word

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### First Reading

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

*Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.*

<sup>1</sup>"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup>and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. <sup>5</sup>"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. <sup>6</sup>"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Choir Sings "I Hear the Prophet Calling" (1st Service)**

### **66C Let All the Earth Sing Out**

*Psalm 66C*

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious.

**C: Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;**

P: he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

**C: Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.**

P: If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

**C: but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.**

**All: 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.**

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### **Second Reading**

*Philippians 1:3–11*

*God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Luke 3:4,6*

P: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Luke 3:1–6

*John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch 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 country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup>And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated.*

## 316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

CW 316

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-6

### Sermon Theme: The Voice in the Wilderness...

- 1) Does not come from within...
- 2) But proclaims God’s salvation to all people.

*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 truly 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.

*Please be seated.*

## Prayer of the Church

### Offering

### Friendship Registration

**Guests:** Please fill out name, address, and phone number.

**Members:** Please fill out name and any new information.

***Please, return the booklet to its original location. Thank you!***

## 312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand.*

P: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

## 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.**

## 310 Arise, O Christian People

*CW 310*

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt. Text and tune: Public domain. **Acknowledgments:** Setting Four from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.





## *Announcements*

**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining our Trinity family in worship today. We invite you to keep growing with us through God's Word and Sacraments. If you have a question, please speak to a pastor or a Trinity member. If you are a guest, please pick up a guest packet and give your name and address in the friendship registration located in each pew. Ask the ushers if you need a pocket-sized aid for the hearing impaired. Large print bulletins are available upon request, with the Hymns for the service printed in them. A Nursery with our service on TV is located off the lobby for parents who need to calm young children.

**BARBARA VONSTEIN** would like to thank everyone who sent her a card for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. The birthday wishes were greatly enjoyed.

**RECESS VOLUNTEER** a recess volunteer for the school is needed on Wednesdays starting in January. The time slot would be from 12:15-12:45. Please contact the office or Mr. Falck if you are able to help out!

**HELP NEEDED** Trinity's preschool is looking for an aide from 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. one day a week, preferably Wednesdays, beginning on the first week back to school after Christmas break, January 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would be more available to commit to either Mondays or Fridays instead of Wednesdays, we would equally appreciate that commitment! If you are willing to give your time and use your talents to help Trinity's little lambs grow, please contact the preschool teacher Jessica Krueger, at [jkrueger@tlcjenera.org](mailto:jkrueger@tlcjenera.org) for more information about this position.

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

~Christmas Caroling: Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00

**THE 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS** are raising funds for their class trip by selling Hancock County Money Saver Coupon Books! Purchase a book from a student for \$20. For each book sold, \$10 will go towards costs for the class trip this coming Spring. Sample books are available for viewing. You can get your money back by using as few as two coupons! Orders can be placed until Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and books will be delivered before Christmas. They could make a great Christmas gift! See one of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students or contact the office to order.

**POWER POINT PRESENTER** There is an opening for 2<sup>nd</sup> service for a Power Point Presenter. Please contact Pastor Nowak if you are interested in filling in the vacancy and/or for more details.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2025 are available in the Narthex. Pick them up at your earliest convenience! If you are not able to find your envelopes or have any questions, please contact Bob Inniger at 567-674-6049.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR DECEMBER:** Important Chapters of the Bible: For the next three weeks, we will examine three important chapters of the Bible. Today, we will study 2 Peter 3 as it talks about Jesus' return and what we should do while we wait.

**LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO (LSGOO)** To date, we have been able to provide over \$10,000 in scholarships from this program to school families needing additional assistance. If you are not taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to direct a portion of your Ohio tax liability directly to our school's ministry, please check out [www.lsgoohio.org](http://www.lsgoohio.org) or talk to Mr. Falck. Remember: Up to \$750/individual or \$1500/filing jointly can be directed to this program with a one-time or recurring payment!

**ADVENT SERVICES & MEALS:** In our midweek Advent services, we will look at some Christmas trees. We will look at some of the trees in the Scripture that point us to Christ. These Christmas trees, more than the decorative ones, remind us of why the birth of Jesus Christ is needed and worthy of our celebration. Services will begin at 7pm, with a meal prior, starting at 5:30pm. For Advent meals: The Women's Ministry are helping out with the meal on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and will be serving soups and bread. The Luther's Society will be helping with the meal on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be serving sloppy joes **with mac & cheese**.

**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME:** Do your kids need a warm place to get some energy out? Join us for a FREE open gym for all preschool aged children (infants, toddlers, and preschoolers) in the school gym on Monday, December 9 from 10:00-11:00 AM. We will have balls to play with, ride-on toys, slides, teeter-totters, mats to crawl/roll around on, mini-trampolines, infant toys, large building blocks, and lots of space to run around and play. Grab a snack for your ride home.

**OPEN GYM:** The school's gym will be available for those wanting to play basketball indoors on Sunday afternoons beginning on December 1st. The gym will be open on Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Please change into dry, non-marking athletic shoes before entering the gym to help keep our gym floor in good condition

**THE ALPHA PREGNANCY HELP CENTER** would like to share an age-appropriate Christmas Message and a \$5 gift with all the children in the 400+ families they serve each month. There are a few ways you can help them to do this: Donate Financially, Purchase \$5 gift cards, Purchase \$5 gifts, or order gifts online and have them shipped. For more information about each way, there is a sheet with more details on the sign-up table. Contact Pastor or the office with any questions!

**FREE LUNCH:** Trinity children are invited to stay at church after their Christmas service practice on Saturday, December 14. A free lunch will be served in the church basement. After lunch, children (age 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to participate in Christmas for Kids from 12:30-3:00 PM at school. If you can help serve food, donate food for the lunch, or provide snacks for Christmas for Kids, sign up! Contact Lauren Siefker at 419-615-5991 with any questions.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS, PARTY!** Come celebrate Jesus' birthday at the next Mornings with Mommy on Monday, December 16 or Tuesday, December 17. 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 262-391-799

**CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS** is scheduled for Saturday December 14 from 12:30-3:00 PM. This one day Christmas VBS will give children an opportunity to celebrate and learn about the true meaning of Christmas. Volunteers are also needed for this event, so sign up if you can help out! Questions--contact Jenny Boehm (262) 391-7994.

**LIMA FOOD BANK:** If you are interested in helping at the Food Bank in December, here are a couple of opportunities. On December 23rd, volunteers are needed to put together plates of pre-cooked food items. On December 24, volunteers are needed to pass these plates out to the public from 9:00AM - 11:00AM. Please contact Jenny Boehm for more information.

**BUNCO:** Save the date for our Women's Ministry's January event---Bunco and Bible study on Sunday, January 19 at 2:00. You don't even need to know what Bunco is to attend! Watch for more details coming soon

#### **DAILY LECTIONARY**

**12.8:** Is 24:14-25:12, *Ob 1-21*, 1 John 2:15-29

**12.9:** Is 26:1-19, 1 John 3:1-24

**12.10:** Is 26:20-27:13, 1 John 4:1-21

**12.11:** Is 28:14-29, 1 John 5:1-21, *2 John 1-13, 3 John 1-15*

**12.12:** Is 29:1-14, Jude 1-25

**12.13:** Is 29:15-30:14, Rev 1:1-20

**12.14:** Is 30:15-26, Rev 2:1-29;

**12.15:** Is 30:27-31:9, Rev 3:1-22

**RECENT SHUT-INS: Contact Pastor or the Office if you would like their address.**

#### **Bluffton**

Betty Heldman

Julaine Boehm

Mary Alice Gauss

Linda Augsburger

#### **Arlington**

Sandy Reel

Marie Marquart

Sharon Sands

#### **Findlay**

Janice Reichley

#### **Jenera Area**

Laverne Freed

Dennis Marquart

Karen Rauch

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church/School Secretary  
Office: 419-326-4685  
tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org  
website: tlcjenera.org

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of December 1<sup>st</sup>)

Total Worship Attendance: 215, Early: 104, Late: 111; Wednesday: 77; Adult Bible Class: 25; Sunday School: 32; Online Worship Views for Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>: 53; Mornings with Mommy: 57; Midweek Advent: 77

**MONEY COUNTERS** for this morning through December 14<sup>th</sup> are the members of Steve Bormuth's Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, will be the members of Gary Mitchell's Undershepherd group.

**GREETERS** today are: Tom & Becky Smith – early  
Mike & Jill Woodward – late

Next Sunday: Richard & Cheryl Kretz – early  
Mark & Jane Boehm – late

## THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (December 8<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>)

**TODAY Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20; Open Gym 2:00; Advent by Candlelight Tea 6:30

**MON** Worship Committee Meeting 1:00; Christmas Caroling 6:00

**WED** Advent Dinner 5:30; Handbells 6:00; Advent Service 7:00; Choir after service

**SAT** Christmas for Kids 12:30

**SUN** **Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** Communion; Adult Bible Study, Teen Bible Class, Sunday School 9:20; Open Gym 2:00

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Mon** Basketball Practice 3:30-5

**Tue** Cheerleading 3:30-4:30

**Wed** Chapel 8:20; Basketball Practice 3:30-5

**Thu** Cheerleading 3:30-4:30; Board of Ed 7:00

**Sat** Christmas Eve Service Practice 10:00; **FREE LUNCH BEFORE CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS**

Vanco  
Mobile  
App



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to glorify our Triune God as we train, strengthen and nurture ourselves and others through His Word and Sacraments, so that we are enabled by His love to live lives of faith and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*