



Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

Theme of the Day:

Christmas Check-list: Christmas Resulted in Great Joy

Congregation sings or speaks the bolded text

306 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 306

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635 Tune: Psalmodia Evangelica, London, 1789, ed. Thomas Williams Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

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 † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW93- 274

2 Henceforth shall people call me blest,
For great things he has done for me.
The mighty God is now my guest;
The Holy One has set me free.

The Advent Wreath

P: We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in to answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

P: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

CW93- 274

3 His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in him from age to age.
His arm of strength to all is near;
The proud he scatters, though they rage.

The Word

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–17

We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

130B Remember Your Mercy, O LORD

Psalms 130B

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;

re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Michael Joncas Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4–7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10

P: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:7–18

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized.

“Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” ¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

366 O Rejoice, All Christians Loudly

CW 366 sts. 1, Ref, 2–3

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Christian Keimann, 1607–1662 Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt, 1611–1675, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon Theme: God’s Good New Produces Genuine Joy

Please stand.

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Reception of New Member (1st service)

P: Friend in Christ, After a review and instruction in the simple teachings of the Bible and our Lutheran church, you have requested to become a member of this congregation. You have come to worship today to confess your unity with us and to take your place as a part of this faith community. I now ask you:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, answer: I do.

I do.

P: Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and this congregation, as you have come to know them, are faithful to the Word of God? If so, answer: I do.

I do.

P: Do you desire to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ, be diligent in the use of God's Word and sacraments, and lead a godly life as the Lord gives you strength? If so, answer: I do, and I ask God to help me.

I do, and I ask God to help me.

P: Is it your desire to join us in worship and mission and support this work with your prayers and gifts? If so, answer: It is, and I ask God to help me.

It is, and I ask God to help me.

P: With sincere joy we welcome you as a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P: Brothers and sisters,

As we welcome this new member to our Christian family, I encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep him in your minds, hold him in your hearts, and pray for him again and again. Show him the face of friendship and offer him a hand of support. Encourage him with your "works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

The peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

P: Gracious Father, we thank you for leading [*name(s)*] to desire to become *a member(s)* of our congregation and for giving *them* joy to confess *their* faith to us. Guide us with your wisdom as we worship and work together. Mold our minds and hearts in a single Christlike will so that we may be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

P: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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!

The Sacrament

Please stand.

Preface

CW 165

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 right to give him thanks and praise.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated.

Distribution

320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CW 320

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text: © 1993 Werner H. Franzmann, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016 Tune: Public domain

672 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

Text: tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.; Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent. Tune: French, 17th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

P: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

524 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

CW 524

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789 Text and tune: Public domain. **Acknowledgments:** Setting One 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.

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. Members of the congregation are to indicate their intention to commune in the friendship registration booklet. For preparation before you communion, you could read about the Sacrament of Holy Communion from Luther's Small Catechism on page 293, or you could review the Christian Questions that Martin Luther wrote for those who were about to communion on page 295.

ADULT CONFIRMATION AND NEW MEMBER WELCOME: We welcome as a new member this morning in the early service: Scott Wetherill. We rejoice at his confession of unity in the faith.

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!

POWER POINT PRESENTER There is an opening for 2nd 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 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!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM: Come see the little children sing! The service will begin at 7pm, with a meal prior, starting at 5:30pm. Sloppy joes with mac & cheese will be served, with dessert taking place after the service.

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!

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.

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 or call 262-391-799

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.

DAILY LECTIONARY

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

12.16: Is 32:1-20, Rev 4:1-11

12.17: Is 33:1-24, Rev 5:1-14

12.18: Is 34:1,2,8-35:10, *Mic 1:1-7:20*, Rev 6:1-17

12.19: Is 40:1-17, Rev 7:1-17

12.20: Is 40:18-41:10, Rev 8:1-13

12.21: Is 42:1-25, Rev 9:1-12

12.22: Is 43:1-24, Rev 9:13-10:11

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

Bluffton

Betty Heldman

Julaine Boehm

Mary Alice Gauss

Arlington

Sandy Reel

Marie Marquart

Sharon Sands

Deloros von Stein

Findlay

Janice Reichley

Jenera Area

Laverne Freed

Dennis Marquart

Karen Rauch

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of December 8th)

Total Worship Attendance: 211, Early: 114, Late: 97; Wednesday: 78; Adult Bible Class: 19; Sunday School: 34; Online Worship Views for Dec. 1st: 34; Preschool Playtime: 27

MONEY COUNTERS for this morning through December 28th are the members of Gary Mitchell's Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, December 29th, will be the members of Joe Spaeth's Undershepherd group.

GREETERS today are: Richard & Cheryl Kretz – early
Mark & Jane Boehm – late

Next Sunday: Tyler & Kathy Smith – early
Jerry Burkholder – late

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (December 15th through December 22nd)

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

MON Mornings with Mommy 9:30 & 11:00; Church Council 7:00

TUE Mornings with Mommy 9:30; Serenity Spring Communion 11:00; Christmas Caroling (rescheduled) 6:00

WED Advent Dinner 5:30; Handbells 6:00; TLS Early Childhood Service 7:00; Choir after service

SUN **Worship 8:00 & 10:30;** 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; TLS Early Childhood Service 7:00

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

Fri Christmas Eve Service Program 10:00; DISMISSED AFTER SERVICE

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.*