



Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Theme of the Day:

Christmas Check-list: Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly

Congregation sings or speaks the bolded text

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 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

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.

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

5 He helped his servant Israel,
Rememb'ring his eternal grace,
As from of old he did foretell
To Abraham and all his race.

The Advent Wreath

P: We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

P: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

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

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 be seated.

85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

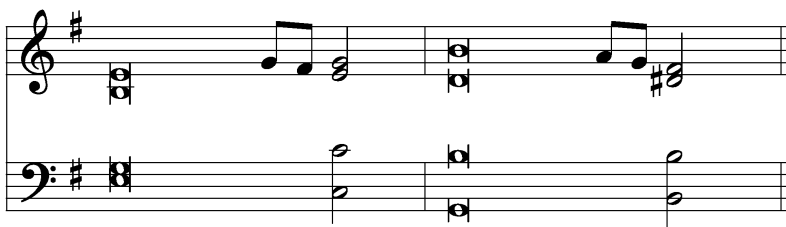
Psalm 85A

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.

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

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**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***

Text: Hal H. Hopson Tune: Hal H. Hopson Text and tune: © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016

Reading

Hebrews 10:5–10

We could not possibly raise ourselves up to God. So, the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy. Christ has lifted up the lowly.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.’ ” ⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 1:39–55

In Spirit-wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” ⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2–4

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up. There a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be our peace

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text: Micah 5:2-5a

Sermon Theme: God Gave Peace to the Ends of the Earth

- 1) Out of the humble ruins of his people
- 2) Through the strong shepherd

Please stand.

328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW 328

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent. Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated.

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!

Please stand.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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.



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord *CW 315*

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6); tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4); tr. Christian Worship, 2021 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 4); © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714016 Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain.

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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.

CHOIR & HANDBELL practice will take place on Christmas morning before the service at 9:00am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR BIBLE CLASS next week on December 29th.

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: We will finish up our topic on the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.

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!

OPEN GYM: The gym will be closed for Christmas Break, but open gym will resume on January 5th, 2025. 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

WARM WINTER WALKING: Beginning January 6th, the school gym is open for walking on week nights between 7:00-8:00 PM. Please bring a pair of shoes that you haven't worn outside to wear while walking. You may walk at your own pace and walk as long or short as you want. Bring a friend!

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!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Women are invited to an afternoon of Bunco on Sunday, January 19 starting at 2:00 PM at Dawn Curth's house (303 East Sandusky St. Jenera). Bunco is a fun and easy dice game in which players simply roll dice to score points. It's a social game that's based on luck , so there's no need to learn a complex strategy. Ladies will sit at small tables and switch seats throughout the game. This is a great chance to meet and talk with other many other women! No experience necessary! Snacks will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you plan to attend.

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.

MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS: Join other kids (ages 0-6) and their caretakers in the church basement on Monday or Tuesday, January 6 or 7. This Mornings with Mommy session will have your children singing, dancing, and playing instruments. You and your children can dance on bubble wrap, paint a guitar, make a maraca, and do musical note hopscotch!. The program costs \$5 per family. Register online at tlcjenera.org or call 262-391-7994.

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, January 13 from 10:00-11:00 AM. We will have balls to play with, ride-on toys, 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.

DISCOVERY STORY: The Hancock County Parks is coming for its next Discovery Story on Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 AM in the church basement. Have you ever looked closely at bird feet? They come in many different shapes and sizes, and they help birds do important jobs. Join us in the church basement with your toddler, preschoolers, and kindergartners as we take a closer look at actual bird feet. Stay after the program for crafts and other activities. Please email Jenny at mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org if you plan to attend.

LUTHER SOCIETY We plan to go to lunch and then axe throwing at Axe Venture in Findlay, on Sunday, January 19th. Mark your calendars! Please text Kathy Miles 419-348-3075 by January 13th if you would like to join us as we need to make a reservation. Feel free to bring a friend.

DAILY LECTIONARY

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

12.23: Is 43:25-44:20, Rev 11:1-19

12.24: Is 44:21-45:13, 20-25, *Dan 10:1-12:13*, Is 48:1-22, Rev 12:1-17

12.25: Is 49:1-18, Matt 1:1-17

12.26: Is 49:22-26, 50:4-51:8, 12-16, Matt 1:18-25;

12.27: Is 51:17-52:12, Matt 2:1-12

12.28: Is 52:13-54:10, Matt 2:13-23

12.29: Is 55:1-13, Lu 1:1-25

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of December 15th)

Total Worship Attendance: 214, Early: 114, Late: 97; TLS Early Childhood Christmas Service: 257; Adult Bible Class: 17; Sunday School: 26; Online Worship Views for Dec. 8th: 38; Mornings with Mommy: 80

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: Tyler & Kathy Smith – early
Jerry Burkholder – late

Christmas Eve: Mark & Kathi Curth
Christmas Day: Joyce Beach & Loretta Jansen

Next Sunday: Ruth Marquart – early
Gary & Rebecca Mitchell – late

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (December 22nd through December 29th)

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

TUE TLS Christmas Eve Program 7:00

WED Choir & Handbell Practice 9:00am; Christmas Day Communion Service 9:30am

SUN **Worship 8:00 & 10:30**; WELS Connection

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.*