

December 12, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.
Third Sunday in Advent



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Principal: Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold

Worship Services

Saturday at 5:00pm (in the church)

Sunday at 9:30am (in the church)

On-line at "www.trinitywestseneca.com"

Welcome Visitors and Guests! Thank you for coming to worship God with us today! We believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We trust that God's Word and this special time in worship will be a continuing blessing to you. Come again!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

“Joy to the world!” is an often-echoed refrain in these days of preparation and celebration before Christmas. But where is true joy to be found? It is found in Christ alone. The coming of Christ as the Savior of the world is the ultimate source of joy for our lives, no matter how we might be feeling during the weeks of the holiday season. True joy is not just for one time of year or for one time of our lives. The happiness that we feel in our hearts at any given moment may come and go, but the joy that is found in Jesus lasts for all of our lives and beyond—into the endless celebration in God’s eternal kingdom.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP *“I Wonder As I Wander”* *Traditional*

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Joy.

A time of rejoicing in anticipation of Christmas.

Pastor: The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. *(Isaiah 35:1-2 New International Version (NIV))*

Pastor: “We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope,

People: **to remind us of the hope that the people of Israel had for the coming of the Messiah.”**

(The first candle is lit)

Pastor: “We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace,

People: **to remind us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ.”**

(The second candle is lit)

Pastor: "We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy,

People: to remind us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born."

(The third candle is lit)

Pastor: ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (*Luke 2:13-14*)

Pastor: God we know that some days, we do not act like there is anything to celebrate. Turn our eyes upward and outward, focusing not on ourselves, but on you!

People: Fill our hearts with Joy we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

[Isaac Watts / George F. Handel. Public Domain]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, You lead us to see and believe in Jesus, the light of the world,

People: grant that we rejoice always in the new life that is ours;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11* (The year of the Lord's favor)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 (Rejoice always)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6–8, 19–28 (The testimony of John the Baptist)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"***

[French Processional. Public Domain]

(v 1, 5, 6)

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

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.

(Refrain)

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

(Refrain)

SERMON: "Always Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks!" *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

NICENE CREED

**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

Pastor: Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, (special petitions) Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Lord of joy, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Make us ready to receive Your Supper as we remember the One who is truly present in this Meal as He comes to us in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us joy.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to give Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us so that our lives may know true peace and endless joy. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we may continue on as Your people, joyfully awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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."

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: And also with you



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"What Child is This"

[William C. Dix. Public Domain]

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Heavenly Father, We give you thanks for welcoming us to Your table
May the body and blood of our Lord now within us keep us joy-filled and
secure in Your love. Bless us through this divine gift that we may live
with assurance and confidence, even in times of earthly sadness and
sorrow. May Your Holy Spirit enlighten us with His gifts that we may be
people who rejoice in Your promises and live to Your glory. We ask this
in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

[Charles Wesley / William Walker. Public Domain]

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free;
From our fears and sins release us
By Your death on Calvary.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy to ev’ry longing heart.

Born Your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Your gracious kingdom bring.
By Your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Your glorious throne.

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Serving Us

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singers ... Mark Ganschow, Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson

Reader ... Joan Sullivan

Altar ... Judy Boersch

Deacon ... Mark Ganschow