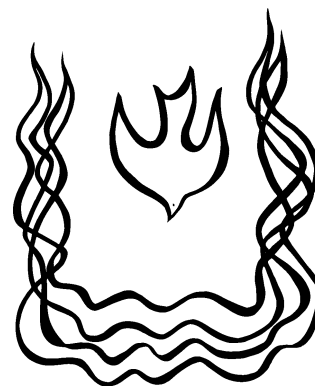


# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 9am



*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

*Today's service is being livestreamed. If you do not wish to appear on camera, please stay in the rear half of the sanctuary, and alert an usher to receive communion at your seat. Please also be mindful that the microphone near the organ is on during the music, including during the distribution of communion, and may pick up nearby conversations.*

## Gathering

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**  
Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the

eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

### **\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Word**

### **FIRST READING**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

*The book of Zephaniah was written as King Josiah of Judah was beginning his reform of the nation's life and faith. While much of the book warns of God's wrath against injustice and idolatry, it ends with this song of promise and joy.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*The Advent Wreath helps us mark the time until Christmas Eve. Each week, an additional candle is lit. We sing Wait for the Lord one time, then after the prayer is read, we sing the verse a second time as the candles are lit.*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

### Advent 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

*Because his relationship with the church at Philippi was so close and loving, this is the most joyful of Paul's letters – surprisingly, because it is written from prison. Appropriately for this season, this passage includes not only expectation of Christ's return, but a prayer for the sort of purity which John the Baptist looked for in his audience.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:7-18

*The Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent always focuses on the preaching of John the Baptist. Luke describes that teaching in greater detail than the other Gospel writers, including his call to his audience to live out their repentance in their occupations.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

LBW 35 / ELW 239

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,<br>the Savior promised long;<br>let ev'ry heart prepare a throne<br>and ev'ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,<br>the bleeding soul to cure,<br>and with the treasures of his grace<br>to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,<br>in Satan's bondage held.<br>The gates of brass before him burst,<br>the iron fetters yield.   | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,<br>your welcome shall proclaim,<br>and heav'n's eternal arches ring<br>with your beloved name.    |

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

### \*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;  
    by the power of the Holy Spirit  
        he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
        and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

#### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The congregation is invited to respond to each petition with **hear our prayer.***

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*During worship, we have an opportunity to share some of what God has first given us – for mission and ministry in this place, and for the care of our neighbors near and far. For the time being, we are not passing the offering plates during worship. Plates are available as you enter or exit worship, on the table in the rear of the sanctuary or in Pfeifer Chapel/South St. entrance.*

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

## **Meal**

### **\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*This meal of forgiveness and grace is for all the baptized. Communion will be served at the base of the chancel steps in a continuous line. Beginning with the pulpit side, come forward at the usher's direction, take an empty glass from the gold tray, receive the bread and wine, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Grape juice and wafers are available by request. Please alert an usher if you would like to receive communion at your seat.*

## **\*BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

## **Sending**

## **\*BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

## **\*HYMN**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

WOV 633 / ELW 242

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;

music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Concert**

Mark your calendar to join us on Sunday, December 19 at 4pm for “The Playing of the Merry Organ and Pianoforte: A Celebration of Christmas in Music”, a concert featuring Ellen Dell and Albert Dell on piano and organ.

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Christmas Eve worship will be held on Friday, December 24 at 7pm. All of our usual safety precautions for worship will remain in place.

**Worship Leaders**

Presiding minister

Assisting minister & reader

Musician

Livestream operator

Pastor Kerri Clark

Don Herbert

Emily Behm

Chandler Daugherty

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