

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Online Worship Service • December 6, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

## Second Sunday of Advent



*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

**Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.**

**Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.**



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,  
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

[www.trinitylutheran-nn.com](http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com)

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image by JoAnne Rawls

## Prelude

## Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath \*

Holy One, healer of the world,  
**shed your light upon this world.**

Holy One, healer of brokenness,  
**make us bold to share your light with others.**

Holy One, healer of the world, we offer our prayers:

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Lead us to wholeness  
**and make us shine with your light of healing love.**

*O Come, O Come Emanuel (stanza 6)*

ELW 257

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## Gathering

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the God, Father, + Son , and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

+ comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Comfort, Comfort, Now My People*

ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## 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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** (read responsively)

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**  
I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.  
**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**  
Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
**Righteousness shall go before the Lord  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.



## **Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever. **Amen.**



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
 the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Portions of the Advent wreath liturgy taken from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, posted online at the The Deacon’s Bench. <http://deaconsbench.wordpress.com/files-and-forms/>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .**

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** The next Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.** A Zoom invitation will be emailed. If you would like to join this group, please let Pastor Tina or Anne know (245-7861). All are welcome!

**Blue Christmas Worship Service:** On Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m., we will have our annual Blue Christmas on Facebook LIVE. The service will be focused on loss. All are welcome to join us for this first of the three Christmas services that are planned. More on that to follow.

**In-person Worship Usher Training:** For those who have signed up with Pastor Tina and are planning to become our “core” usher group through the months ahead, the first meeting will be held on December 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**December Drive-by Communion:** Our next drive-by communion will be held on Sunday, December 20 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. for all area groups. Please adhere to the current COVID guidelines by wearing a mask and not getting out of your car.

**Theology on Tap:** The next Theology on Tap discussion via Zoom will be on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. Please join us!

**Worship and Music Committee Meeting:** Next Worship and Music committee meeting is **January 5** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Poinsettias:** All those who have email should have received the poinsettia form which was sent out on November 23. We had to place our order with Pollard's in advance just as we did the Easter lilies. Therefore, 30 poinsettias were preordered. First come, first served.

**Hilton Area Group Blessing Bags:** "With your donations for the Blessing Bags for THRIVE and the hygiene kits for PORT and two very generous monetary donations, we (Hilton Presbyterian, St. Andrew's, and Trinity Lutheran) were able to fill **95 Blessing Bags and 120 hygiene kits.**" **Thanks Trinity members!!!**

## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Group Pillow Project for Homebound:** Inside the Advent box you received recently is a kit to make a pillow which Pastor Tina will be delivering to our homebound members on your behalf. **Please complete this project by December 13.** (If for some reason you are unable to do this, please let the office or Pastor Tina know so that we can get other members to finish it.) Once you have made your pillow, you can: 1. Drop it off at the church office, 2. Coordinate a porch drop off at either Pastor Tina or Kelly Rummel's house, 3. Coordinate a pick up with Pastor Tina elsewhere. Thanks so much for helping add cheer to those members who cannot get out this holiday season and who also love our church as much as we do.

## **VANCO Online giving: An Important Note For Congregation Members and Friends -**

For your convenience, the Church Council and Finance Committee have arranged to provide an optional online donation service for congregation members, friends and visitors with Vanco Payment Services, the ELCA-recommended electronic donation service. Through this service, you may donate from your checking or savings account or with a credit or debit card. Of course, you may also continue to donate through whatever other methods work best for you.

The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com> (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

**Procedure for online giving:**

Go to <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

**PRAYER LIST**

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS:** Pending surgery: Ed Matz (November 17); **Recovery at home:** Jeff Belote, Rick Daggy; **Nursing Homes:** Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.207); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:** The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen and Maria Goldsby, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (friend), Mike Muskalla (former member) and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend),** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Charlotte Rogers and Tina McManama,** requested by Richard and Sandra Anderson; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother),** requested by the Ardis family; **Jack and Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters),** requested by Grant and Donna Owens; **Bonnie Carlson,** requested by Dave Carlson; **the friends and family of Rlou Baum (mother of Wendy Kowalski),** requested by Jessica Moye; **Jacque and Harry Hartman,** requested by Nancy Lindfors; **Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker),** requested by Patricia Wessler; **George Kingston,** requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; **Michael May,** requested by Jon May; **Erik, Kelly, Nathan and Andrew Rummel; Anna Percell, Keegan and Rob Wise; Jan Titus (sister-in-law),** requested by Glen and Betty Titus; **Baby Rosalyn and her mother, Jessica,** requested by Laura Davis; **Brian Moore,** requested by Karoline Ardis and Anne Obara; **Betty Hasel (COVID); Paul Sawarringim (COVID); Millie Christensen (COVID); the friends and family of Karen Dutton (mother of Kristen Turnage).**

**Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty:** James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.

## **Things you and your family can do for The Second Sunday in Advent**

1. **Second candle lighting on your Advent Wreath** - In preparation, light one candle on your wreath and when Pastor Tina lights the candle on the church wreath, Sunday morning, you light a second candle on your wreath. The first symbolizes **hope** and the second candle, **joy**.
2. **Read your devotion for the day** and perhaps discuss this devotion or maybe draw a photo to go with the devotion.
3. **\*Make a gratitude ornament.** Here is the link to the instructions and download of different ornaments: [https://catchat.ca/images/CatChat\\_Gratitude\\_Tree\\_Ornaments.pdf](https://catchat.ca/images/CatChat_Gratitude_Tree_Ornaments.pdf)
4. **\*\*The meaning of the Advent Wreath:** check out this brief Catholic video - <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/videos/advent/advent-wreath/> . Which of these Catholic symbols are the same as Lutherans and which are different. Do you know?
5. "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." - *Pope Benedict XVI*

Enjoy a simple treat if you are still decorating or watching a holiday movie . . .

### **\*\*\*Recipe: Holiday Pecan Crunch**

2 cups all-purpose flour

Into large bowl, measure first 5 ingredients

1 cup packed light brown sugar

With hands, knead dough until well-blended and it holds together

1 cup of butter or margarine,  
softened

Preheat oven to 350°

1 egg

Pat dough evenly into 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 jelly roll or bread pan. Bake 25 mins.

1 tsp of vanilla extract

In small saucepan over low heat, melt

chocolate, stirring frequently; set aside. Remove pan from oven; pour chocolate over baked layer; with spatula, evenly spread over; sprinkle with pecans or colored sprinkles.

1 tsp. vanilla extract

Cool on wire rack. When cool, cut lengthwise into 6 strips, cut each strip crosswise into 12 pieces.

1 pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips, 6 ozs.

Store in tightly-covered container; use up within one week.

1 1/2 cups pecans, toasted & chopped

Sources for Things to Do for the Second Sunday in Advent:

\**Chat.Chat for kids, 2nd Sunday of Advent*, <https://catchat.ca/advent-activities/second-sunday-advent-for-kids>

\*\*The Religion Teacher, Jared Dees, creator. *The Meaning of the Advent Wreath*, video.

\*\*\**The Greatest Christmas Ever: A Treasury of Inspirational Ideas and Insights for an Unforgettable Christmas*; Copyright 1995 by Honor Books, Inc., Tulsa, OK.