Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 15, 2024 ACS Setting 12



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

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Sunday School begins at 8:45 followed by a worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

A nursery room is available during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have "activity binders" available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 245-7861 — http://trinitylutheran-nn.com Church Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



REV. TINA MELUSKY—Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL – Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON – Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM – Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: http://facebook.com/TrinityNN TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://trinitynn.org

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm; Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on Es ist ein Ros

Johannes Brahms

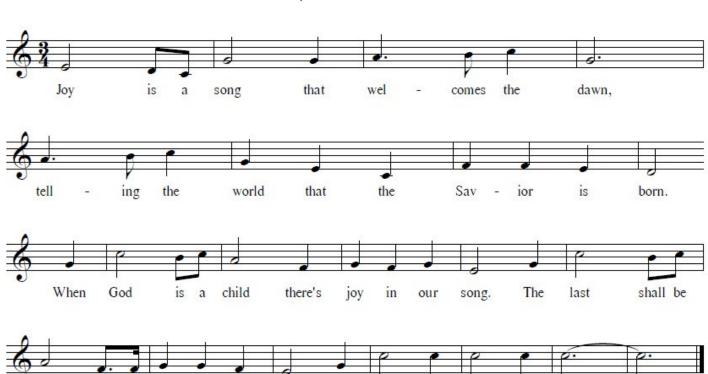
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Hill Family

fraid.

RESPONSE

Hope Is a Star (v. 3)



WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985 MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

and the weak shall

first

GATHERING

and

strong,

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

none

shall

be

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn REJOICE, REJOICE

ELW 242

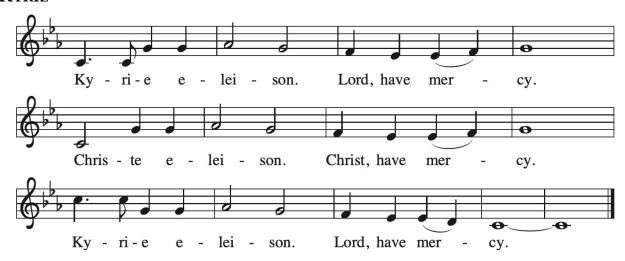
The congregation turns to face the processing cross.

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.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;

the Lord has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness;

and renew you in love;

the Lord will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

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.

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

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

before your eyes, says the Lord.

PSALM: Isaiah 12: 2-6 (all sing the response before the reading and when directed.)



Isaiah 12:6

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation. R

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for the Lord has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4: 4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

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

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am sending my messen- | ger before you, who will prepare your | way before you.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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."

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT SERMON Pastor Tina Melusky Pastor Tina Melusky

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL **ELW 257**

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

Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up, And dash in pieces princes and nations.

How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar
With light and comfort glowing!

Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.

Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing!

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus JESUS BRINGS PEACE

ACS 905

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

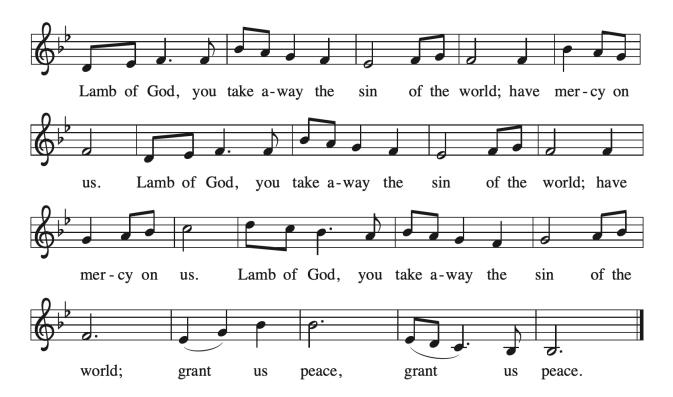
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

Communion will be held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

ACS 901

SUO GÂN

The assembly stands.

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord

ELW 200

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World **ANTIOCH**

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "Joy to the World"

Paul Fey

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

CRUCIFER — Patrick Spisak

ACOLYTES – Drew Rummel and Karina Stevens

LECTOR — Dave Roselius

USHERS/GREETERS - David and Judy Hunt

CAMERA/LIVESTREAM – Kelly Rummel

The Flowers are given today for the Glory of God and in Memory of Sudie Wagner, given by Jeanette, Kenny, and Katie Dail.

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of Ethel Long, Sister in Christ, upon her passing on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Details are still being planned. Please keep family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

12/22/24 after worship we will gather to approve the TELC constitution updates and to elect new council members.

<u>POINSETTIAS</u>: We are now taking donations for poinsettias up until December 8. Each 6.5" pot is \$15. A poinsettia form was sent out via Constant Contact email this past week. More forms are available in the narthex. Please note — we ask that you pick up your poinsettia immediately following worship on 12/29. We will not be donating them to Simple Sunflowers.

REMINDER

Just a reminder that, if you have children with you in the service, there are binders in the narthex with drawing paper and crayons, coloring pages, games, and various puzzles for them to use during the service if needed!

<u>RED FOOD BOX</u> Thank you so much for your donations to the Red Box! We will always need water and food donations. A reminder that if you donate fruit cups, please be sure they are applesauce cups only– other fruit cups attract critters! This is an important ministry for our community members, receiving a gift that reminds them that they are valued children of God! Canned goods and items that need to be cooked can be placed in the Thrive baskets next to the red food box table and outside sacristy kitchen.

EVERYTHING I LEARNED IN CONFIRMATION...I ALREADY FORGOT...

Have you ever asked, "Why do we do that?" while sitting in church? Have you ever wondered how we got to where we are? Has the Bible ever confused you? Join the club! This fall we are tackling all the things we probably learned in Confirmation and then promptly forgot! We are resuming on January 2nd at 6:30 PM. We will gather every other Thursday throughout the fall and winter, from 6:30-8 PM for discussion and to dive into the ins and outs of faith. If you'd like to join us, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We will be meeting in person and on Zoom.

<u>THE VIRGINIA CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERTS</u> December 14th at 4pm Trinity Lutheran Church and December 15th at 4 pm Temple Baptist Church, Newport News.

HELP WANTED

It is time once again to make a request for volunteers to help with ushering during the worship services. The same core group has been serving for over a year now and we would love to have some new folks join the usher crew. The work required is to open the church in the morning, hand out bulletins, collect offerings, send folks to communion, and close the church following the service. Training will only take an hour or less at your convenience. We are especially in need of ushers for the additional Christmas Eve services. Please contact Clifford Obara if you would like to volunteer.

PRAYER LIST

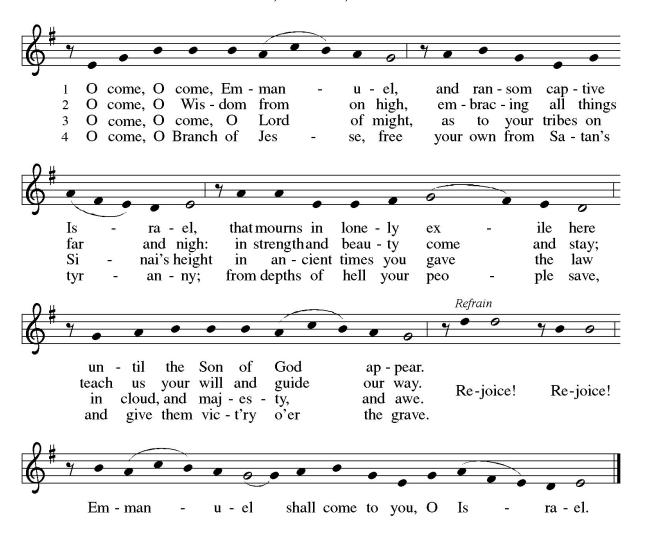
ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, and Barbara Olson; Shut- ins Home: Peggy Cash, and Shirley Anderson.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Kitty Engelhard Amos, Anne Englehard's daughter, requested by Rick Daggy and Sandy Cobb; Calvin Obara, Cliff's brother, requested by Anne Obara; Mary Lucia Spake, requested by Bill Solomon; Harlan Hamby, requested by Pastor Tina and Katherine Harry; Nancy Sumpter, Tricia Wessler's Mom, requested by Pastor Tina; Mary Best, a friend of Connie Hoover, requested by Connie Hoover; Nancy Allerding, who works with the Costa Rica mission trip, requested by Tricia Wessler; Sherry Johnston, former member and sister of Donna Owens, requested by Judy Hunt; The family of Carole Knopp, by Wendy Mynoymany; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, requested by Tricia Wessler; Janet Stephan, requested by the Dail Family; Amanda Griegos and her family, requested by Diane and Dave Roselius; Karen Admano and her husband Matt requested by Patricia Fielding; the Ahlen family, requested by Kathy Stevens; Beth Eisdorfer, daughter of Terri Hoffeditz; Jean Wimmer--friend of Jeannette Dail.

THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY: James Fielding, in Tokyo, Japan, Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone.; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National guard, LAFB; Michael Titus, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and wife, Elisabeth Bruce.

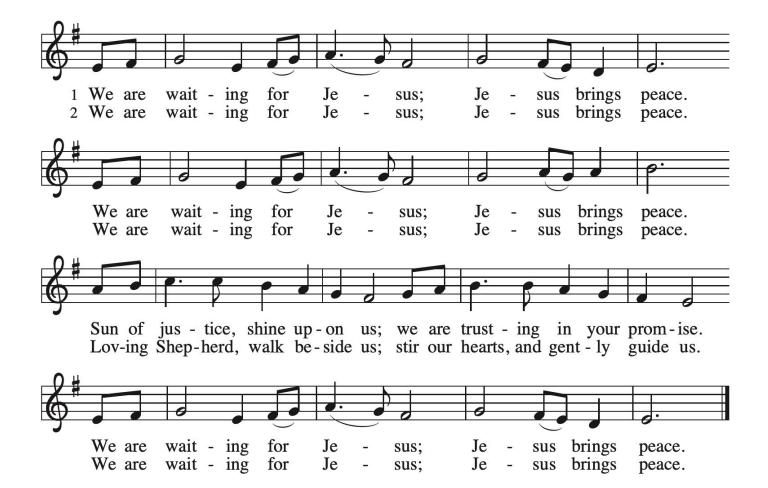


Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Music: Detroit Folk Mass, Tillis Butler, d. 2002, and James Harris Music © 1986 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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