

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



December 15, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church
Morris Plains, New Jersey
Pastor David Russert

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad to have you at worship with us today,
as we receive God's good and gracious gifts!

At Trinity, we joyfully share God's love and Word with all people
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.

Trinity is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), meaning our beliefs and teachings follow after the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther, who sought to bring the Church back to the pure doctrines of Scripture. Simply put, we believe, teach, and confess what the Bible says—no more, no less.

As part of the LCMS, our beliefs and teachings can be summarized as:

Grace Alone: God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him & do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable & save the ungodly.

Faith Alone: Jesus' suffering & death as the substitute for all people of all time purchased & won forgiveness & eternal life for all. Those who hear this Good News & believe it receive these gifts. God creates faith in Christ & gives people forgiveness through Him.

Scripture Alone: The Bible is God's inerrant & infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law & His Gospel of salvation in Christ. It is the sole rule & norm for Christian doctrine.

God bless you as He speaks to us His Word during this time of worship!

**WE OFFER BIBLE STUDIES FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN,
BOTH YOUNG AND OLD! PLEASE JOIN US!**

Adult Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. Thursday Evenings – Ages 12+

Confirmation Class – Contact the Church Office for more info

Membership Class – Contact the Church Office for more info

A NOTE ON COMMUNION:

In this congregation, the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites those who trust His words and repent of all sin to His table.

Communion is also a confession of the faith confessed at this altar. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different than that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (yet desire to receive the Sacrament) are asked to first speak with Pastor Russert or an usher.

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.” 1 Cor. 11:27-28

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Stand

OPENING HYMN

331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt., Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76, Text and tune: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 146:5–8; ant.: Philippians 4:4

*Rejoice in the Lord / always;**
again I will say, / Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;
who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

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.

*Rejoice in the Lord / always;**
again I will say, / Rejoice.



KYRIE

LSB 186

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 189

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our

hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14–20

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
- 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- 19 Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 85; ant.: v. 2

*You forgave the iniquity of your / people;**
you covered / all their sin.

¹LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.

³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

⁶Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

⁸Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet,*
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

¹²Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

¹³Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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.**

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;
you covered | all their sin.*

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸“The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

OFFERING

Stand

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

630 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah - WOV



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Text & Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press

TIF IN VELDELE
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Healing & Comfort

JACKIE EHRGOTT

✠ LUCY RIEGER ✠

ANTHONY CHIACHRAMONTE

THEO NIEGLOS

DONNA FINKE

ELANTRA VEDENETRA

CAROLYN CHERMAK

FRED BRYANT

LORENZO DINIA

MARC THOMAS

MELISSA NOTIS

FRED

RUSS SCHILLING

JASON ANDRIOPOULOS

BROOKE MORGAN

BERT RADES

MATTHEW BRYANT

STEVEN BRYANT

DEBBIE OLIVIERA

KATE OLIVEIRA

JOYCE ENGELBERT

LISA SCHNEIER

CAROL OLSEN

JIM MARTIN

JESSICA IMHAUSER

RUSS BACCAGLINI

ARLENE BACCAGLINI

SUE FRANCE

ANGELO

Strength & Comfort

SUANNE MARTIN

NICHOLAS

LOUIS WIEDEMANN

WARREN



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

C 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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



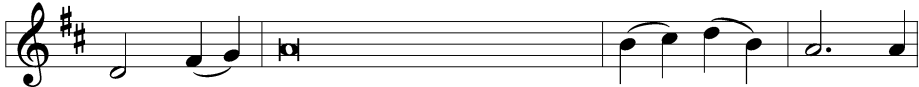
From world-ly pas-sions set me free And make me pure with-in.
 Let me Your lov-ing ser-vant be And taste Your prom-ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis-er-y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark-ness and per-plex-i-ty Point out Your cho-sen way.
 I may the e-ter-nal bright-ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt., Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591, Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

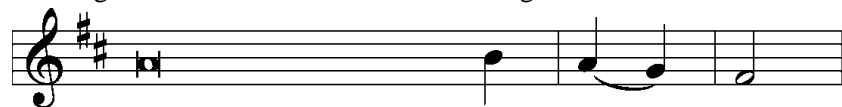


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith

toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913, Text and tune: Public domain



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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GREETER

Barbara Schilling

COUNTER

Lisa Leggett

ALTAR GUILD

Maryann Ferry, Birte Jensen



Today's altar flowers are given by

Tom & Suzann Zoltner in celebration of God's gift of His Son.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us **December 24th at 4:00 p.m.** as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Decorations on the altar, please fill out an envelope from the Narthex, enclose your check and put it in the Dimitry mailbox by today, Sunday, **December 15th**.



PRAYER REQUEST NETWORK

Matthew 18:19 tells us *"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."*

The Prayer Network will offer prayers for your concerns and joys.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTION meets once a month.

Members of the congregation are invited to attend.

The next meeting is **Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m.**



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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