

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS

#### WELCOME TO ALL

The people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church wish to extend a special welcome to all visitors! Please leave your name and phone number on the visitor card found in the pew.

We are committed to the inclusion of all people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice **open communion**, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are full participants in this congregation's worship, educational, and community life! The Mary Martha Room is a quiet space for infants needing to nurse or to nap. For active toddlers, the Community Room has a Children's Corner with books and a table at which to play. Our ushers are ready to assist you in finding the place that best fits your family's needs.

Accessible and all-gender restrooms are located in the basement. Single-use, all-gender restrooms are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

For over forty years, this congregation has advocated for the **full welcome**, **inclusion**, **and equity** of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the church and the community. We invite all people into lives of authenticity, integrity, and wholeness.

Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins are available. Ask an usher if you are interested.

Our **services are livestreamed** on Vimeo and Facebook every week. The live shot includes the main floor of the sanctuary. Our members who watch from home love to see their friends at church! If for privacy reasons you prefer not to be on camera, the balcony is outside of the camera's range.

If you are seeking pastoral care, please speak to a pastor today.

+invites the congregation to stand

Today's bulletin cover art is provided by Rosie Martin. Thank you, Rosie!

# **GATHER**

PRELUDE

Advent Prelude
Pat Farris, flute

Charles Callahan

+GATHERING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the sanctuary.



#### +GREETING

The grace of 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

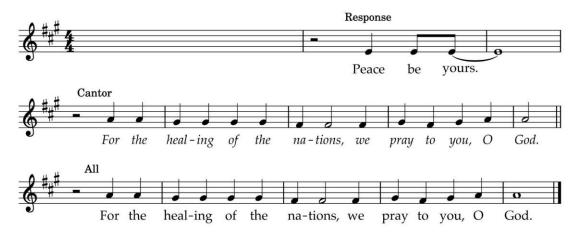
Powerful shepherding God, when our whole world feels like it is dissolving around us, bring your righteousness and peace. Let it spring up from the ground and fall from the sky. Comfort and lead us as we prepare the way. We pray this in all your holy names. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

#### WELCOME

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

As we sing, congregants are invited to come forward and light a candle near the font.



# Word

**REFLECTION** Following the Star

Susan Palo Cherwien

ANTHEM

How Shall We Approach This Wonder?
Adult Choirs; Kaia Sand, oboe; Pat Farris, flute

Carl Schalk

How shall we approach this wonder? Should we bend the knee or stand? This is Christ, the world's redeemer! Dare we touch his tiny hands? Can we hide our hearts' shortcomings from his gentle newborn eyes? What words can we offer to him, while the angels fill the skies? How shall we consider others gathered 'round his manger here? Will we favor robes and riches and to those with gold draw near? Do we see the earthy shepherds, wondering how they think it right that they stand before the Savior, least of these, to share his light? How shall we depart that evening? Will our hearts be changed and free? Would we know God's manger purpose- Grace for all borne on a tree! Come as paupers, kings, or shepherds; come however you can come. Bring your empty lives with longing, then return full hearted home.

**REFLECTION** A Blessing in the Dust Jan Richardson

**ANTHEM** 

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Adult Choirs

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, Joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, Shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord!

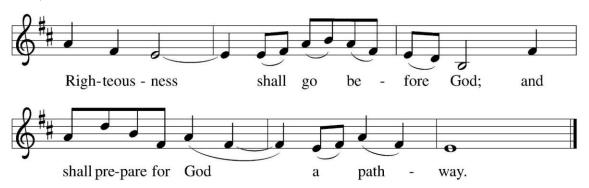
He will come in power, He will rule with mercy and truth, Hope of the nations, Light of the world, Light of all.

He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms. Love and trust him as a child, your Lord comes to you. Love him as a child. Isaiah 40:1-11

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 Mark Mummert

Refrain (first time: Cantor, then All):



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. **Refrain** 

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. **Refrain** 

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. Refrain

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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



#### +GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:4, 6). Alleluia

+GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

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

ANTHEM

All Earth Is Hopeful
Adult Choirs

Alberto Taulé arr. James E. Bobb

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set everybody free.

Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!

All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see, our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

REFLECTION

Three Parts to the Season

Susan Palo Cherwien

+Intercessions Larry Farris

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(silence)

Holy God, you are presence in the deepening darkness, warmth in the increasing cold, silence amidst the clamor of this season, music that gladdens us, the One we so deeply need to come,

## Hear our prayer.

We thank you, O God, for all good gifts from you: for a Christmas card that renews the ties that bind, for pulling out old decorations and living into new traditions, for finding just the right tree for our home and just the right gift for someone we love, for folks who accept us even when we're not our best selves. We thank you for the neighbor who helps shovel snow, for remembering how to skate, for counting down the days on Advent calendars, for baking cookies, and for the lifting of any 'bah, humbug' spirits in these days. O Generous God,

## Hear our prayer.

As we rejoice in this season of wonder, O Lord, we pray for those for whom these days are but a dreary same old, same old: those lingering forgotten in nursing homes, prisons or refugee camps; those cowering beneath falling bombs; those for whom the search for food and warmth is the only reality that seems eternal; those fighting for sobriety. Open all to your coming and send us forth in your name that moments of joy may be shared with all people. O Compassionate God,

# Hear our prayer.

Deepen in us, O Christ, the ever-surprising truths of your incarnation – that young, unmarried mothers can be world changers; that tired, overlooked third shift workers can hear your music as few others; that immigrants from afar come bearing sorely needed gifts. O God who comes,

# Hear our prayer.

We pray for the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the dying, the grieving and the lonely, the oppressed and addicted, the unemployed and imprisoned, and lift all to your compassion. Heal our sick, comfort our bereaved, refresh our discouraged, grant hope to our despairing, quiet our anxious. Mindful of all in need, we lift before you this day Caren Hiatt's sister-in-law, Shannon; Annie Hines's son Nick; Peter Schroeder; Joyce Hanson; Joel Wiberg's sister-in-law Anne Wiberg; Arnie Johanson; Katie Schroeder's mom, Diane; Mary Paavola; Dorothy Kelly; Cori Gershon; and those we name now, either silently or aloud (the congregation may name loved ones in need of God's care). O God of healing,

# Hear our prayer.

You are invited to offer spoken petitions. At the conclusion of your petition, please close with "God of mercy," to which the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayer."

Receive these prayers, Gracious God, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

# **MEAL**

#### +PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to exchange words and signs of friendship and love with those around you.

**OFFERING** 

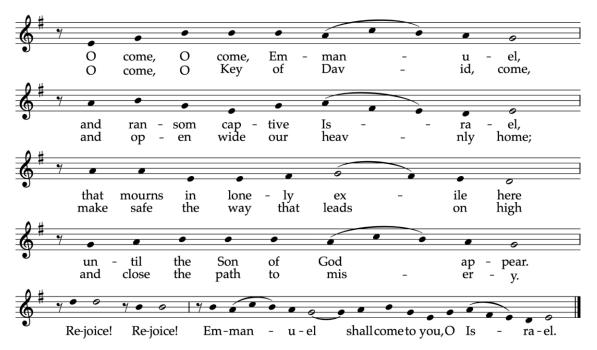
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

setting, John Ferguson

+OFFERTORY HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Communion servers are invited to come forward at this time.



#### +OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

#### +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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### +SANCTUS



#### +WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### +LORD'S PRAYER

# We pray together:

Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

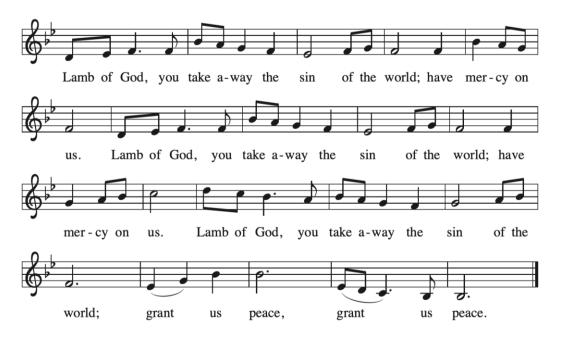
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### +LAMB OF GOD



Please be seated.

#### COMMUNION INVITATION

All are welcome at the table. This is Christ's table where no one is a stranger.

(11:00) For those worshiping at home, hear these words spoken for you: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.** 

Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the server.

An usher will direct you down the center aisle, where you can pick up a communion cup. You are invited to stand or kneel in front of the table, beginning from the middle and moving toward the outside. After you have received the bread and the wine, please return to your seat by way of the side aisle, where an usher will receive your communion cup.

If you wish to receive communion from your pew, please let an usher know.

#### HEALING

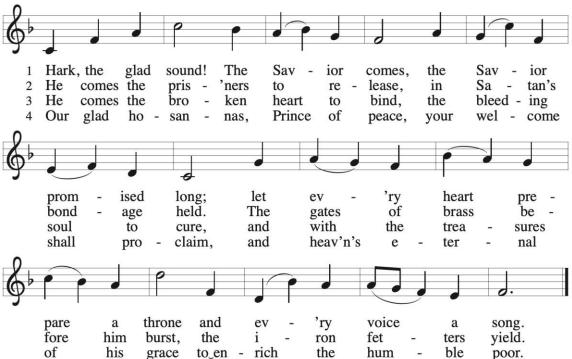
Today you are also invited to receive a blessing for healing during the communion distribution time. Come if you wish to seek prayer for yourself, on behalf of someone else, or for a place in the world.

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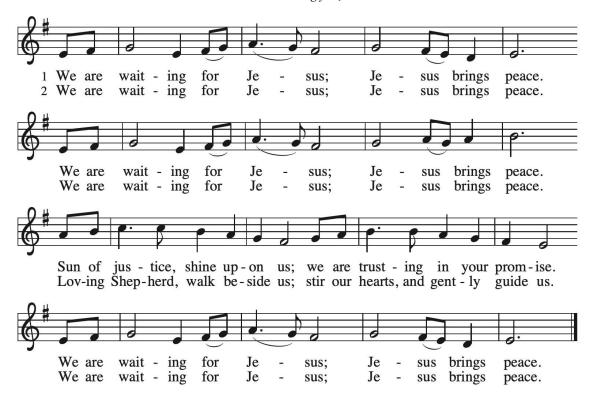
lov

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name.

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

## We Are Waiting for Jesus



#### +BLESSING

The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

#### +POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

# **SENDING**



**ELW 248** 

#### +BENEDICTION

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

#### +DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbors.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE People, Look East P. Radtke

Prayer of the day written by Pastor Melissa Pohman as part of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, MN) expansive prayer project. Used by permission.

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

"Psalm 85" Psalm refrain reproduced from 'Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary"

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"There's a Voice in the Wilderness" Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.

Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988. Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft B. Burrows, Executor "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Text: 'Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum', Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
"We Are Waiting for Jesus" Text: John Helgen, b. 1957. Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

"People, Look East" Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965. Music: BESANCÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We acknowledge that we gather on the Dakota Homeland.

LITURGY: ACS SETTING TWELVE

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Adult Choir and Ensembles	Preacher	Adult Choir and Ensembles
Ingrid Rasmussen	<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Ingrid Rasmussen
Tom Cahoy	Crucifer	Jeff Olsen Biebighauser
Ann Schrooten	Cantor	Ann Schrooten
Karen Batdorf, Marge Higgins, Mary Opila	Assisting Minister	Tom Skold, Sharon Englund, Rob Englund
Carol and David Berg, David Broberg	Communion	Liz Conway, Matt Floding, Sean Gosiewski
Sally and David Kohlstedt, Chris Engen	Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Mary Engen	Altar Guild	Vicki Bergman, Doris Gbala
Sally and David Kohlstedt	Coffee Servers	Nicki Hines, Trinity Village 3 Helpers
	Counters	

Closer Bob Hulteen

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Contract	Control control with
STAFF	STAFF, CONTINUED
Ingrid Rasmussen, Lead Pastor	Sue Roberts, Publications Coordinator
David Larson-Martínez, Associate Pastor	Erik Gerhardt, Accompanist
Doug Mork, Part-time Associate Pastor	Dennis Nordholm, Custodian
Kathy Ekwall, Communications & Congregational	Dana Simms, Custodian
Coordinator	Logan Olson, Gloria Ringers Director
Nolan Gusdal, Building Maintenance	_
Phil Radtke, Cantor	Leadership
Kaia Ellis, Financial Administrator	Allison Johnson Heist, Council President
Sue Roberts, Publications Coordinator	Gretchen Lund, Council Vice President
Erik Gerhardt, Accompanist	Erin Henry, Council Secretary
Dirk Geriaide, recompanio	Katie Schroeder, Council Treasurer

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

#### WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT (DECEMBER 13 and 20)

God has chosen to make a home among us. In our joys and sorrows, in our longing for healing and justice, in our gathering for worship, God promises to embrace us in love. The theme for our gatherings is "Thresholds." As we anticipate the birth of Jesus, we focus on divine thresholds—points at which something starts to happen or change in our individual and collective lives.

All are invited to partake in the Advent soup suppers on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the Community Room.

While the activities are taking place throughout the building, a staff person will be in the gym. Everyone is invited to come and leave as needed. You can shoot a few hoops, have your child enjoy time on a tricycle, or simply hang out.

As has been our tradition in years past, we will also gather at 7:00 p.m. for a Service of Evening Prayer in the Bartsch Room. People of all ages are invited to worship.

#### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas, please contact the church office (612-729-8358 or office@htlcmpls.org). Cost is on a sliding scale from \$0-30. Donate according to your ability. The Christmas Eve bulletins will list the names of sponsors and the loved ones they are remembering or honoring.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 11:00 A.M.

Children and youth will help lead the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 17, the third Sunday of Advent. Participants will gather in the sanctuary at 9:55 a.m. for a final rehearsal.

#### MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

We invite you to plan for and make your final contributions for the current fiscal year at this time. Please allow for additional processing time with consideration to the holiday season if you are anticipating requesting funds from retirement accounts. This will give us all adequate time to deposit and post gifts before the close of the tax year and also get year-end statements out to you in a timely manner. Thank you so much for all you shar with Holy Trinity!

#### CHANGES TO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- Sunday, December 24, there will be no morning services or education, due to the evening Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 31, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 28, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

# CHURCH SCHEDULE

Monday, December 11	6:30-8:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 12	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
	6:45 PM	Big Meeting Night
Wednesday, December 13	5:45 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	5:45 PM	Gloria Ringers Rehearsal
	5:45 PM	Supervised Play Time in the Gym
	6:00 PM	Advent Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, December 14	8:00 AM	Encore! at Turtle Bread
Saturday, December 16	1:30-3:30 PM	Children and Youth Rehearsal
Sunday, December 17	8:45 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
•	10:00 AM	Adult Forum (Bartsch Room)
	10:00 AM	Children and Youth Rehearse in Sanctuary
	11:00 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	2:00 PM	Swahili Service

# **ADULT FORUM**

10:00 a.m. each Sunday in the Library

# TODAY "Global Relationships and Interconnections" Connie Lien Adams and Carol Berg

Connie Lien Adams and Carol Berg will share from their international experience to discuss the mutual benefits of collaborating across the globe. Concrete examples of partnering in the health sector through Global Health Ministries and overseas partners will be highlighted.

# December 17 "Advent Hymn Sing"

So many hymns, so little time! We'll use the forum hour to get a few more Advent hymns in before the season is over. We meet in the Bartsch Room this week.