

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Advent Midweek 1**

**December 4, 2024, 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

**WELCOME TO TRINITY!**

Thank you for worshipingwith us today. We want to know who you are, so please provide your contact information in the Friendship Book as it is passed during the Offertory. If you are visiting, honor us by signing the Guest Register in the Narthex.

There are times in our worship service where we stand or kneel. Feel free to participate in either as you are able or feel comfortable to remain seated.

Please ask an usher should you require a hearing assistance device.

(†) ~ Those who wish may make the sign of the Cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYER**

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a Blue Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Prayer requests may also be emailed to trinityoffice@bellsouth.net or to pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com.

**FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

We are delighted that you have brought your child to worship! We invite you to use the Cry Room as a courtesy to others if your little one gets a little rambunctious. Our Cry Room, complete with seating and children's activities, is located at the back of the Sanctuary. The service can be heard through the sound system. We hope your children feel glad they were here and that they are a part of the Trinity family!

***Our Vision:***

***Growing in God’s Word to Share Christ’s Love***

***Our Mission:***

***Led by God, equipped as disciples through Word and Sacrament,***

***we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.***

**AS WE GATHER TODAY**

The first week of the Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! A Danish hymn from around 1600 calls out to us as the church: “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!” It closes each stanza with an address to our Advent Lord: “Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee” (*LSB* 335). May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond!

**Advent Midweek 1**

**The Song of Zechariah**

*Please Stand*

**HYMN 343** “Prepare the Royal Highway”









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**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 146:1–2, 5–6, 7b–8, 10*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

**People: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, inspire our praises in this season of blessed expectation. Lead us joyfully to serve Jesus, our Advent King, in our daily lives, so that when He comes again on the Last Day in power and majesty we may, by Your mercy, be gathered into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King.

**People: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Exodus 15:1–3*

(Moses sings a song of victorious Praise.)

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
 the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song,
 and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
 my father’s God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a man of war;
 the Lord is his name.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 24*

Pastor: The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**People: for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

*Women: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?*

*Men: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.*

**People: He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 5:15–21* (St. Paul’s exhortation on living in Christ)

 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 1:67–80* (The Song of Zechariah)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 in the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Be Seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY 386** “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”









Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

**OFFERTORY 358 vv. 8, 13** “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”







Text and tune: Public domain

*Kneel or Be Seated*

**THE LITANY**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: hear us.**

Pastor: God the Father in heaven,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Spare us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from
rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**People: Good Lord, deliver us.**

Pastor: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: We poor sinners implore You

**People: to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor: To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: we implore You to hear us.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: hear us.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy. Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** **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.**

**CLOSING COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray.
Accept, O almighty Lord, our praise for Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, who came in the flesh to seek and to save us in our lost condition. Grant that at His second and glorious appearing He may find in us the fruits of the redemption that He has graciously accomplished for us; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*Please Stand*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the X Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN 547** “The Lamb”









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*Be Seated*

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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**HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP**

Wednesday Worship Services –December 4, 11, & 18 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – 5:00 p.m.

 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.

 Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

**THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS**  *Matthew 1:1–16*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

**SEASON OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

We begin the church year with an ending and a beginning. Advent is the season before Christmas during which we anticipate the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is in this Second Coming that He will judge the earth and raise all the dead. Those who have faith will be given their reward in heaven and live with Him eternally. Advent is a beginning as well. For we look forward to the time we celebrate Christ’s first advent, His birth on this earth, which we celebrate on Christmas day. The color for Advent is blue, which suggests hope for us while we wait.

**THE SYMBOLS OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The evergreen wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The candles are symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The act of lighting more candles each week anticipates the imminent coming of Christ.

 Each candle has a specific meaning:

1. **Prophecy Candle** announces a period of waiting for our Lord. – **Hope**
2. **Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes preparing to receive the Christ Child. – **Love**
3. **Shepherd’s Candle** symbolizes sharing of the news of Christ’s birth. The pink color is representative of their joy and witness to so great an event! – **Joy**
4. **Angels’ Candle** symbolizes Christ’s final coming on Judgment Day when He will appear in glory with all His angels. – **Peace**
5. **Christ Candle** is lit on Christmas Eve. This central candle signifies that the Light of the World, **Jesus, has come**.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**STAFF**

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