

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020
Trinity Free Lutheran Church
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INVOCATION

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

Amen.

INTROIT: PSALM 85:7-9, 12-13 (ESV)

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸ *Let 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.*

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

¹⁰ *Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

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

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

¹³ *Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation.

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray that You will open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness.

Hear us for Christ's sake.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool” (Is. 1:18).

With promises like this God invites us to come and wash our robes in the blood of the lamb.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!

O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

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. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become sons of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, LORD, to us all.

Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28 (ESV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED

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, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall 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.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING RESPONSE

*We give Thee but Thine own, whate’er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee. Amen.*

#5: “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

- 1 Come Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-11 (ESV)

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
- 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;
- 6 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.
- 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.
- 8 For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- 9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

SERMON: "REJOICE IN JESUS' SALVATION"

#8: "COME, THOU SAVIOR OF OUR RACE"

- 1 Come, Thou Savior of our race,
Choicest Gift of heav'nly grace!
O Thou blessed Virgin's Son,
Be Thy race on earth begun,
Be Thy race on earth begun.
- 2 Not of mortal blood or birth,
He descends from heaven to earth:
By the Holy Ghost conceived,
God and man by us believed,
God and man by us believed
- 3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heaven enthroned,
Still to be in heaven enthroned.
- 4 From the Father forth He came,
And returneth to the same;
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell,
High the song of triumph swell!

- 5 Equal to the Father now,
 Though to dust Thou once didst bow,
 Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
 When shall we its glories see?
 When shall we its glories see?
- 6 Brightly doth Thy manger shine!
 Glorious in its light divine:
 Let not sin o'er-cloud this light,
 Ever be our faith thus bright.
 Ever be our faith thus bright.

THE 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.

BENEDICTION (NUMBERS 6:24-26)

The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Amen.*

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE THIS MORNING!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Mon., Dec. 14</u>	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
<u>Wed., Dec. 16</u>	Bible Study: 1 Peter (on site and via Zoom)	7:00 pm
<u>Sun., Dec. 20</u>	“Behold His Glory” KNOX 1310 AM Divine Worship	7:30 am 10:30 am

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Dec. 20 & 27</u>	No Sunday School	
<u>Thur., Dec. 24</u>	Christmas Eve Service	4:00 pm

Offering envelopes are now available. If you do not have envelopes but want them, please contact Marilyn or Beverly.

Remember to pray for those who are hurting or sick, those who have lost a loved one, young families with children, our nation, the AFLC, members & friends of Trinity, Pastor Dan and Alicia Antal.

12/6 Attn: 49; Views: 37; Offering: \$3,136; Radio: \$20.
12/20 Texts: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38