



# Trinity Lutheran Church

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
December 17, 2023

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

304 E. Ferris St.  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
*“the welcome place”*

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

### ***Introduction***

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

### **+++ GATHERING +++**

**Prelude**    Suo Gan

Thomas Keesecker, Mark Sedio

Welcome, Announcements & **Friendship Registries-Please Sign In.**

*(Stand)*

### **Invocation**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Everlasting God,  
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**  
**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**  
**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**  
**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**  
**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.  
Look upon us with mercy.  
Turn our hearts again to you.  
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:  
God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song ELW#242** Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

### **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.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Third Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.  
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.  
Bless us as this light grows,  
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.  
Give us strength and patience,  
trusting that you are true to your promises.  
Transform the lives of all who suffer  
with your wonders near at hand.

**Amen.**

*Three Advent Candles are Lit*

# Kyrie

# WOV Setting 4

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - being of the

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

**+++ WORD +++**

## First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
 because the Lord has anointed me;  
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
 to bind up the brokenhearted,

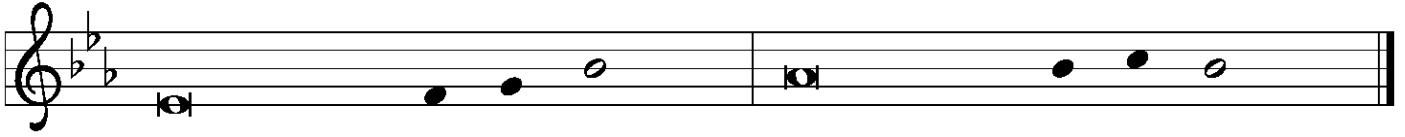
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
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.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being 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 with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

## Psalm Psalm 126

*Sung responsively by whole verse*



<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with | shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done  
great | things for them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

## **Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

*(Stand)*



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

### Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He



said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

**Children's Message**

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

*(Stand)*



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

**Nicene Creed**

*Let us join together in the confession of our faith.*

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.  
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Sit)

### **Prayers of Intercession.**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need especially Dena, Jean, Bev, Annie, and Donna. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these prayers as well as those we now name to you either aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

+ + + MEAL + + +

*(Sit)*

### Offering Song

Bell Choir

Reverie by Dan Edwards

*(Stand)*

### 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **Eucharistic Prayer.**

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Let us pray together as Christ taught us*

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

*All are welcome to receive communion at Trinity Lutheran Church. If you wish to receive you may come forward as dismissed by the usher and will be given a wafer in the center aisle. Then you may take a small cup from the tray. Red wine is along the outside, and white grape juice is located in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is also available. Place empty cups in the bowls located at the side aisle as you return to your pew. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest as you come forward.*

*(Sit)*



**Distribution of Communion**

**Lamb of God**

**WOV Setting 4**



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**



**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**



**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*

*Curt Oliver*

# Post Communion Hymn

# Thankful Hearts

# WOV Setting 4

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev- 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who  
seek the Lord re - joice, re - joice and  
bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us, O God, with your  
prom - is - es, and lead us forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks- giv- ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*(Stand)*

## Prayer After Communion

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 +++**

**Blessing**

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.**

**Sending Song ELW #259**

Fling Wide the Door

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Fling Wide the Door

Robert Buckley Farley

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***As you leave, please take a moment and greet one another.***

**Worship Participants**

Audio: Hillary Hoffman

Video: Sarah Brakenbury

Usher: Danny & Mary Lou Lindberg, Jim Woods

Communion Setup: Hillary Hoffman

Assisting Minister: Jen Robinson

Reader: Roger Williamson

Wine Server: Heather Hellenga, Lisa Shafer

Closing Duties: Hillary Hoffman

Acolyte: Julia Robinson

Coffee Fellowship Servers: Jim & Sandra Woods

Advent Wreath: Lisa & Anna Shafer

Organist: Bette Mohr

Director of Choirs: James Hutchings

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes



Today's Altar Flowers were donated by **JoAnn Lakis**, *Glory to God and His creation.*

Today's Radio Broadcast was sponsored by **John & Margaret Thulin**, *In Memory of our parents, and brother, Gene Nelson.*

## Announcements

**TLC Mitten Tree-** Please bring in new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to warm up the tree in the Narthex. These items will be donated to local children and youth in need! Give the gift of warmth this season! **Next Sunday is the last day for collection!**

**Christmas Memorials-** Are due by tomorrow, Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> be included in bulletins and Tidings. This year we will be donating memorials to the **ELCA LDR Fund**. Forms are on the bulletin table in the Narthex.

**Julia Robinson is off to Brazil to study!** Please keep her lifted in prayer as she takes on a new journey in life. We're proud of you!

**Coffee Fellowship-**Join us in Fellowship Hall immediately after service

**Trinity Lutheran Caroling-**Meet in Fellowship Hall at **1 pm TODAY**. Please join us, everyone is welcome.

**Nativity Sets are ready for pickup!** For those that participated, please find the bag with your last name on it, bags are located in the Narthex on the small table desk by the tree. (see Pastor for help)

**Sunday School-**Youth please join us after service

**Sunday School is collecting donations** for Hope House, if you want to help them reach their goals, you can drop off pantry items in Fellowship Hall, there's a labeled box, please contact Julie Wiegand for more info.

**PRISMS** will meet tonight at 5 pm: Last Meet of the Year!

**Round of Applause please for Marcy Simkins**, she has been the fearless leader of PRISMS for years and December was her last month. Thanks for all you've done for TLC and with our youth, you're amazing, and a blessing to have. We appreciate you!

**Adult Bible Study** will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

**There are NO Committee Meets in December!**

**Choir Practice**-Wednesday at 6:30 pm

**The last Deposit of the Year** is Saturday, December 30, 2023.

**Views & Brews: Join Pastor Carrie and/or Scott**

Join us weekly, on Mondays at 10 am at The Orange Cup Side Hustle (E. Galesburg)

Join our monthly meeting, Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Cherry Street

**Prayers:** If you need prayer for yourself or a loved one, please fill out the salmon-colored slips in the Narthex and drop them into the collection plate.

## Current Prayer List:

<b>Dena Garrison</b> <i>(daughter of Hilma McDorman)</i>	Prayers for peace & comfort
<b>Jean Musolf</b>	Prayers for comfort & health
<b>Bev Powell</b>	Prayers for healing & recovery
<b>Annie Maier</b>	Prayers for healing (surgery)
<b>Donna</b>	Prayers for comfort & peace (cancer)

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes, Pastor, Out-of-office: Friday  
Cell phone: 618-803-8778  
Church Office: Phone 309-343-4191  
Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, Worship at 5:00 pm, Holy Communion  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am; Holy Communion Sunday; Facebook  
Radio Ministry at 9:30 am on WRAM – 1330 AM  
[www.trinitygalesburg.org](http://www.trinitygalesburg.org)  
[trinitylutheran@trinitygalesburg.org](mailto:trinitylutheran@trinitygalesburg.org)

### **Vision Statement** **Developing Disciples – Connecting to Christ**

**Mission Statement**  
**Led by the Spirit, we receive Christ's love, share God's forgiving grace, and reach out to welcome, encourage and serve all.**

**Welcome Statement**  
Members of Trinity Lutheran Church are freed by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is frequently an unloving place. We extend welcome to all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, whether believer, doubter, or seeker. In Christ's love we invite you, so that led by the power of the Holy Spirit we will join together to strive for racial equity, justice, peace and love in all the earth.

- Our Guiding Principles**
1. Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.
  2. We faithfully worship through Word and Sacrament.
  3. We invite and welcome everyone.
  4. We engage all generations in education and ministry.
  5. We serve local and global communities.