



**Trinity Lutheran Church**

Advent Week 1: We Acknowledge Our Weariness  
December 1st, 2024

## Trinity Lutheran Church

304 E. Ferris Street

Galesburg, IL 61401

*“the welcome place”*

Advent Week 1: We Acknowledge Our Weariness

December 1st, 2024

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. Joy is designed to live in a full house of other emotions. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years steadfast in their faith. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with a promise of good news, but Zechariah can't fully receive it, and he is cast into silence for the duration of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. We've had hard journeys. Grief has left a scar on us. This is how we show up to Advent. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, “how long?” and plead for restoration.

### +++GATHERING+++

**Prelude**

Variations on Land of Rest

Robert Hobby

### **Welcome & Announcements - Please Sign Friendship Registry**

*The red ELW hymnal and the purple ACS hymnal are in the pew racks*

*(Stand)*

### **Call to Worship -**

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful.**

**We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious.**

**We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired,**

**delighted or doubtful,**

**connected or curious,**

**and everything in between.**



This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.  
**Let us worship our loving God.**

**Gathering Hymn** ELW (red) # 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

### **Call to Confession**

Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?"

Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it.

But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

Let us pray:

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

### **Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no

matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

God's love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Kyrie

ACS (purple) Setting 12, pg. 31-32

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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.**

## Candle Lighting Liturgy

**A:** How does a weary world hope?

**B:** By telling stories of hope,  
by lighting candles in the night,  
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

By praying for children as they grow,  
and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

**A:** There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**B:** With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Loving God, the source of our joy,  
as we turn our hearts toward your Word  
we ask that you would soften us.

Soften the callouses on our hearts.

Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits

And plant hope where there is room.

And as you do this,

like flowers toward the sun,  
we will turn ourselves toward you,  
eager to hear a Word so good that we cannot help but ask  
ourselves, "How can this be?"  
With openness and gratitude we pray, **Amen.**

*(Sit)*

**+++WORD+++**

**First Reading: Psalm 80**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.

<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

<sup>16</sup>They burn it with fire like rubbish;  
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.  
<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.  
<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Poem - Wade In**

Over time  
wind and water  
will sand down the edges of a stone.  
For humans,  
our wind and water  
is the grief of the world.  
Stay here long enough  
and pieces of you  
will be pressed upon  
by life's never-ending stream.  
It's enough to make you weary.  
It's enough to make you question. It's enough to make you quiet.  
And yet, the stream continues.  
So do not be afraid to stand in that water.  
Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.  
Drip wet footprints through every room in your house.  
Let the water stains tell your story.  
And when your body grows weary of swimming,  
name the stream.  
Acknowledge your weariness.  
For eventually,  
you will pick flowers from  
the opposite bank.  
And over and over again, we'll tell this story.  
And over and over again,  
a weary world will rejoice.

*(Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation, ELW (red) #262**

Wait for the Lord

*(congregation sings the refrain before and after cantor sings verse)*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

**Gospel: Luke 1: 1-23**

The holy gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of

the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. '

Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

## **Children's Message**

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

*(Stand)*

**Hymn of the Day** ELW (red) #698

How Long O God

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,  
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.**

**We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not  
just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead,  
who is not done dreaming for the world—**

**a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,  
movements and Spirit.**

**And so we return to this space.**



**We bring our joy and our weariness  
like two sides of the same coin,  
and we trust that God is already at work.  
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God,

You carry us through our days. You know every word on our tongue, every hair on our head. You know the dreams in our hearts, and the weight of our bones.

You also know the weariness we bring with us into the morning and into this space. So with honesty we come before you, both with hearts full of gratitude and with prayer requests on our lips. First, holy God, we thank you for the gifts of this life that give energy.

For birthday candles and sunrises, for handwritten cards and jobs that we are passionate about. For stories that can make us laugh until we cry, and for friends that feel like family.

For all these gifts, thank you.

In addition to these prayers of gratitude, loving God, we also bring you the things that weigh heavy on our hearts. For gun violence, for family and friends in chemotherapy, for seasons of transition and grief that won't let us go—we ask for your attention. We ask for your love and care, especially for Fred, Duane, Jenna, Nathan, and Jim.

Take this yoke from us. Relieve some of the burden on our backs, and wrap your arms around places where we feel most tender.

And as we enter into this new Advent season—a season marked with joy, hope and light—we ask that you would remind us that our full humanity is welcome here. There is room for both joy and grief. There is room for weariness and awe. There is room for faith and doubt, for nothing is too big or too far gone for your love to reach it.

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**+++MEAL+++**

**Offering Music**

Land of Rest

Charles Callahan

*(Stand)*

**Offering Prayer**

Promised One, always here and always coming, you bring joy to this weary world. We give thanks for your presence among us, for meeting us in our waiting, and kindling our hope. Receive these offerings and draw us near to you. Fill us with awe and expectation as we gather around this bread and cup, joining in the life you offer.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Life up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give our thanks and praise

**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 to you, O Lord of Hosts through our Savior Jesus Christ . You answer sighs disappointment with new dreams and renewed promises, transforming our doubts into laughter and our grief into joy. And so with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

ACS (purple), Setting 12, pg. 36



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

Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amid our cries for deliverance  
You raised up a mighty Savior,  
Through whom you showed the mercy promised our ancestors.  
He appeared, fulfilling the promises of the prophets,  
bringing light to those who dwell in darkness,  
and peace to weary souls.  
When we doubted, you remained faithful.  
When we were lost, Christ came,  
proclaiming release to the captives  
and good news to the poor,  
transforming despair into songs of joy.

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.**

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them for us the body and blood of Christ,  
nourishing us with your grace.

Fill us with your Spirit,  
that we may serve you without fear,  
living in holiness and righteousness  
as we await the joyful coming of your Son,  
who brings hope to our weary world. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

As Zechariah entered the most sacred of spaces, he may have carried a mix of awe and weariness, joy and unfulfilled dreams, doubt and longing. In that holy moment, God met him fully, honoring each feeling and promising transformation. Know this, however you're feeling, whatever you bring with you, all of you who you all is welcome here.

So come to this Table.

Come with your faith and your doubt.

Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love.

Just come, because there is room for you here.

This is Christ's table. All are welcome.

*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 come to the altar rail and kneel or stand. Receive the bread. 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 wafers are also available. Place empty cups in the bowls carried by the acolyte. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest at the altar rail. Return to your pew by the side aisles.*



(Sit)

## Distribution of Communion

Lamb of God

ACS (purple), Setting 12, pg. 40



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Communion Music* Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Michael Burkhardt*

**Post Communion Hymn** ACS (purple)  
#1006

By Grace We Have  
Been Saved

(Stand)

## Prayer After Communion

Source of life, hope, and steadfast love,  
you created all things, filling the world with beauty and wonder.  
We thank you for meeting us as we are, connecting with us in the  
midst of our lives and opening our hearts to the awe and wonder  
of your presence. Nourished by this meal, strengthen our bonds  
with you and with each other. Send us forth filled with hope and  
ready to share your love, singing your praises.

**Amen.**

**+++SENDING+++**

## Blessing

Family of faith,  
as you leave this place,  
you go into a weary world—  
so speak tenderly.

Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.  
Hold onto hope.  
And remember  
that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved.  
So go rejoicing.  
The world needs it.  
Amen  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** ELW (red) #252

Come, Thou Long Expected  
Jesus

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus **Charles Ore**

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

**This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by Brenda Patterson.**

### **Worship Participants**

Audio: Hillary Hoffman

Video: Sarah Brakenbury

Ushers: John & Lynn Armstrong, Keith Majors

Communion Setup: Hillary Hoffman

Assisting Minister: Sandra Gray

Readers: Pam Killinger

Wine Servers: Nick Elders, Roberta Majors, Janet Page

Coffee Fellowship: John & Wilma Hessler

Acolyte: Emma Helvey, Henry Gray

Closing Duties: Hillary Hoffman

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

Organist: Bette Mohr

Advent Wreath Lighting: Keith & Roberta Majors

### **Announcements**

**Coffee Fellowship** will be immediately after service.

**Watch out for Wilbur!** You can find him rooting around for treats in the Narthex.

**How Does a Weary World Rejoice** is the title of this year's Advent worship series. Stepping away from the traditional lectionary, we will focus on the Gospel readings of Luke 1, exploring joy in the midst of grief, weariness and longing. We invite everyone to celebrate this sacred season with us!

**Time & Abilities Sheets are Due December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please submit your sheets to the office at your earliest convenience.

**Our Advent Tree is Up!** We are accepting donations of hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens to decorate it.

**PRISMS will be at the Holly Days Parade on December 8<sup>th</sup>.** We will be serving hot cocoa, and we are accepting donations of Christmas cookies. If you are interested in donating, please speak to Pastor or Julie.

**T.L.C's Potluck is Cancelled for December.** We'll see you all next year!

***World Hunger Appeal* is the recipient for Christmas Memorials this year.** Please contact the office by Dec. 18th to have your loved ones included in the Christmas Eve bulletins & the January Tidings.

**Prayer List:** If you or loved ones need prayers, please fill out the salmon-colored form located on the bulletin table in the Narthex, and return it to the Office mailbox or drop it in the offering plate.

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Prayer</u></b>           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fred Rakers        | Prayers for Peace              |
| Duane Anderson     | Prayers for Recovery           |
| Jenna              | Prayers for Healing            |
| Nathan             | Prayers for Strength           |
| Jim Musolf         | Prayers for Healing & Recovery |

**This Week at Trinity**

|                              |          |                           |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> | 10:30 am | Coffee Fellowship         |
| Mon, Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | 10:00 am | Brews & Views             |
| Tues, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 6:00 pm  | Exec. Meeting             |
| Wed, Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>     | 6:30 pm  | Choir Rehearsal           |
| Sat, Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>    | 5:00 pm  | <b>Grace</b> Sat. Worship |

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes, Pastor, Out-of-office: Friday  
Cell phone: 618-803-8778  
Church Office: Phone 309-343-4191  
Hours 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Monday-Friday  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays; Worship 5:00 pm; Holy Communion  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am; Holy Communion  
Sunday Radio Ministry at 9:30 am on WRAM – 1330 AM, Facebook

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**  
At Trinity Lutheran Church, we believe God's grace is extended to everyone. Members of Trinity Lutheran Church are freed by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness. We welcome people of 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.