



Leslie

Trinity Lutheran Church

Advent Week 3: We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed
December 15th, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church

304 E. Ferris Street

Galesburg, IL 61401

“the welcome place”

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After Elizabeth gives birth, her neighbors and family celebrate with her. When it comes time to name the child, Zechariah affirms the name given by the angel and by Elizabeth. In that moment of affirming the promise, Zechariah’s speech is restored. Everyone is filled with awe. How often do you allow yourself to be amazed? Wonder is all around us—can we recognize it? As we learn how to rejoice in a weary world, can we live in a way that allows amazement and wonder to surprise us often? In Psalm 126, those who expect to reap tears are granted a surprise: shouts of joy. Amazement is a balm for the weary.

+++GATHERING+++

Prelude

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Kevin Sadowski,
Mark Sedio

Welcome & Announcements - Please Sign Friendship Registry

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

Call to Worship -

Our God can part the sea.

God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

Our God can walk on water.

**He can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

(Stand)

Gathering Hymn ELW (red) # 731

Earth and All Stars

Call to Confession

If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently.
For a child, a ladybug is a miracle.
A pine tree is a wonder.
Curiosity is a love language,
and water is not only for survival, but for joy.
As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder,
and when we do, we distance ourselves from God.
In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance.
So let us return to God with hearts wide open.
Let us return to God in prayer.
Join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow
awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.
We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.
Forgive us for closing that door to you.
Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,
when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.
With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,
Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and
sunsets,
God marvels at us.
There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent
God from loving you.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
**We are forgiven.
We are loved.
We belong 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.

(Sit)

Candle Lighting Liturgy

A: How does a weary world practice joy?

B: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties. By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

A: There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of the universe,
make our hearts porous.

Open our eyes, as if for the first time,
so that we might see your world
with awe and wonder once again.

We often approach scripture with an analytical lens,
intellectualizing the stories heard,
bringing historical context
and textual criticism to the table.

For just a moment,
pause those instincts to make room for wonder.

Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude
before we begin dissecting it for truth.
For I am confident, that in doing so,
we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the
pathways of our hearts.
With gratitude we pray:
keep us open.
Amen.

+++WORD+++

First Reading: Psalm 129

¹“Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth,”
let Israel now say;
²“Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth,
but they have not prevailed against me.”
³The farmers plowed upon my back
and made their furrows long.
⁴The Lord, the Righteous One,
has cut the cords of the wicked.
⁵Let them be put to shame and thrown back,
all those who are enemies of Zion.
⁶Let them be like grass upon the housetops,
which withers before it can be plucked;
⁷which does not fill the hand of the reaper,
nor the arms of the one who binds the sheaves;
⁸so that those who go by do not say, “The blessing of the Lord be
upon you.
We bless you in the name ^l of the Lord.”

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

Poem – All the Way to Joy

We could play hard and fast,
not let anything touch us at all,
keep composure,
have all the answers.
Or we could crack ourselves open
and let everything in.
We could feel everything,
every touch, every marvel.
We could stand gaping
at the beauty of the world,

mouths wide open (because sometimes a mouth wide open is the very best gratitude). We could laugh so loudly that the whole restaurant looks, and err on the side of goofy whenever possible. We could put our defenses down. We could grow soft. We could choose awe. We could take her by the arm. We could let her lead us all the way to joy

(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: 57-66

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them

pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become? 'For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

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) #264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who knows our names,
**who counts the hairs on our heads,
and carries the dreams in our hearts.**

We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,
and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder,
**goosebumps and laughter,
telling stories and paying attention,**
are all ways that we can say thank you
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

**Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world
with eyes wide open,
with porous hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and
gratitude,
**trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into
God's loving arms.**

We believe.

We stand in awe.

Thanks be to God!

Prayers of Intercession

Holy God, Christ with us,
Once again we bow our heads.
Once again we close our eyes.
Once again we draw ourselves closer to you in prayer. Meet us here. Surround us with your loving presence.
From sunrise to sunset, you fill us with awe.
For that, we pause to give you gratitude.
Thank you for the way the sun shines through our windows,
for the mist rising off the river,
for the warmth of a cup of coffee,
for the joy of returning home,
for the beauty of a crowded table,
and for the glory of a sky full of stars.
God, we are in constant awe of you.
The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth reminds us of the great things you can do, and there is no grief that you do not know. For that we give thanks.
However, even with this good news at hand, we know that there are many in this world who cannot find the energy to practice awe or wonder because they are so deep in grief. So today, gracious God, we pray for those for whom awe feels out of reach.
Be with every parent who worries about a sick child.
Be with every child who worries about a sick parent.
Be with every person waiting on the doctor's phone call,
waiting on the next month's paycheck,
waiting for the next warm meal.
Be especially with Jenna, Nathan, Jim, Kinleigh, Lydia, Sally, and Kate.
Holy God, surround those with broken hearts who are trying to stitch the pieces together, praying that one day they might be able to feel awe again.
All the while, we will keep gathering together and turning to you to remind us that you are the God of the impossible. You are the one who floods our world with awe. You are the one who knows our names. Amen.

Peace

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

+++MEAL+++

Offering Music

Gentle Voice
Sr. Choir

Susan & Lee Dengler

(Stand)

Offering Prayer

Promised One, always here and always coming, you bring joy to this weary world. We give thanks for the gift of your very self, 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

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 to you, O Lord of Hosts through our Savior Jesus Christ . You answer sighs of 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.
As the world lay in sin and error,
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 our weary souls 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

When Elizabeth's family and neighbors gathered to celebrate,
they were amazed—not only by the birth of a long-awaited child
but by the unfolding promise that surrounded him. In Zechariah's
moment of affirmation, his voice was restored, and awe filled
everyone present. Awe has a way of lifting us up and, opening
our eyes to the mystery and beauty woven into even our most
weary days. Here at this table, wonder waits to surprise us, just
as it did for those who gathered with Elizabeth.

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 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

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

People look East

Robert Hobby

Post Communion Hymn ELW (red) #826

Thine the Amen

(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.

Sending Hymn ELW (red) #248

People Look East

Dismissal

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

Postlude

People Look East

Wayne Wold

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

Worship Participants

Audio: Norm Tippey

Video: Sarah Brakenbury

Ushers: Linda Tippey, Melissa Williamson, Layton Sandall

Communion Setup: Nick Elders

Assisting Minister: Julie Wiegand

Reader: John Armstrong

Wine Servers: Lynn Armstong, Nancy Sandall

Coffee Fellowship: Kathy Bell, Kristy Johnson

Acolyte: John McClean

Closing Duties: Norm Tippey

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

Organist: Bette Mohr

Advent Wreath Lighting: Dorothy & Harold Ziehr

Announcements

Coffee Fellowship will be immediately after service.

Please join us in the Martha Room for adult forum immediately after service. We will discuss housing insecurity in the community with guest speaker, David Riordan.

Our Christmas Eve Service will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 6 p.m. All are encouraged to join us for this special evening service!

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

T.L.C's Potluck and Well-being Group Meeting are 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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
Jenna	Prayers for Healing
Nathan	Prayers for Strength
Jim Musolf	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Kinleigh	Prayers for Healing
Lydia	Prayers for Recovery
Sally	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Kate	Prayers for Healing & Recovery

This Week at Trinity

Sun, Dec. 15 th	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	PRISMS & Adult Caroling
Tues, Dec. 18 th	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri, Dec 20 th	10:00 am	Tidings Article Submission Deadline
Sat, Dec. 21 st	5:00 pm	TLC 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
1st & 3rd 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.