



“People coming together to be The Church,  
not just attend one.”

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive  
church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street • Hillsdale, Michigan  
517-437-2647 • tlchillsdale.org

---

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 13, 2020**

---



**Service of the Word**  
**Weekly Resource for Prayer and Devotions at Home**

**Trinity Lutheran Church** is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING!** We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

**MISSION STATEMENT** - The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

**VISION STATEMENT** - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

**NURSERY** - This congregation encourages ALL children to participate in worship. They learn more about worship and faith by being part of it than anything else. If you or your children need a break, a nursery is located in the lower level of the church building, and is accessible from either stairway. During worship, the nursery is self-service.

**FROM THE ELCA WORSHIP BLOG:**

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL MUSIC LINKS:**

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: "[In A Lowly Manger Born](#)," "[Adam Lay Ybounden](#)," "[Prepare the Royal Highway](#)."

**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

## **INTRODUCTION**

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## **COMMEMORATION FOR TODAY: Lucy, martyr, died 304**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C** **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN****ELW #264 v. 1 & 4***Prepare the Royal Highway*

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**P** We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** **Amen.**

# HYMN OF LIGHT

ELW #256 v. 3

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*Light three candles.*



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

A A reading from Isaiah.

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 60:1-4, 8-11*

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>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;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.  
<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 126*

*The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes 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 fortunes, 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, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

A A reading from First Thessalonians.

## SECOND READING

*2 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

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

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia.

C **Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #249 v. 1 & 2

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A On this third Sunday of Advent, we join in prayer as we await God's salvation.

*A brief silence.*

A God of prophets and preachers, strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, and lay leaders. Protect Christians who are persecuted for the faith. While churches await a full return to assembly worship, empower the baptized with your faithful Spirit. Embed your word in our hearts. We pray for the church:

**C Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely on nature's rhythms for their livelihood. Train us to dwell on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive. We pray for the earth:

**C Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions in the Middle East, and bring peace where civil conflicts rage. Release child soldiers from forced service. Equip regions to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war. We pray for the nations:

**C Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of exiles and wanderers, give a homeland to refugees. Provide housing for those whose dwellings have been destroyed. Protect street people from the cold and be with teenage runaways. Uphold the work of ELCA Good Gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and all disaster relief organizations. Comfort all who feel isolated from others. We pray for all in distress:

C **Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of the sorrowing and the brokenhearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. (*Receive our prayers for...*) We pray for the sick:

C **Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of each one of us, we await peace and justice, health and wholeness. Sustain us as we await your coming. Hear now our unceasing prayers. (*Pause*) We pray for ourselves:

C **Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

A God of sinners and saints, while facing sadness and death, we grieve; yet we offer you praise for all the saints, especially the martyr Lucy, those who have died of COVID-19, (*and those whose names we call out to you now...*). At the end, gather us into the joy of your glory. We pray for your salvation.

C **Mighty Savior, come and save us.**

P God beyond all things, God dwelling among us now, receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came, who comes, and who is coming now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### ***SECOND SUNDAY: Barnyard Boxes for ELCA Good Gifts***

*Each week, our congregation collects a general offering for the church and our ministries. Additionally, we collect an offering for special projects.*

*Offerings can be mailed to the church while in-person services are suspended. You may include a note for what you would like your offering to support, or simply write it on the memo line of your check. All checks need to be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church, as required by our bank.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER (8:30 a.m.)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.**

### LORD'S PRAYER (11:00 a.m.)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.**

## BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide and bless your journey, † now and forever.

C Amen.

**SENDING HYMN****ELW #239 v. 1 & 3***Hark, the Glad Sound!*

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **SERVING AT TRINITY**

**Ministers:** Every member of the congregation    **Council President:** Carol Knoch  
**Pastor:** Rev. Jessica Hahn    **Vice-President:** Suzanne Langston  
**Piano/Keyboard:** Paul Lucas    **Treasurer:** Kristin Lucas  
**Parish Secretary:** Ann Warner    **Secretary:** Amy Otterbein

**Council Members:** Diane Draper, Norma Ludlow, Chris McNamara, Brad Otterbein, Gene Stockford-Shively, and Tom Walworth.

### **SERVING TODAY:**

**Assisting Minister:** Warren Bartels  
**Cantor:** Chris McNamara  
**Altar Guild:** Tom Stockford-Shively

**FLOWERS** -- The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God.

*The music streamed in our worship services and reprinted in this bulletin is used with permission under Annual License A-727368 from OneLicense.net.*