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**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Advent Midweek Prayer

December 14, 2022

6:30 p.m.

**Advent Midweek Prayer: Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

*Our midweek worship this season is based on the service of Holden Evening Prayer, a service written by Marty Haugen for Holden Village in Washington state. Holden Village is an intentional Lutheran community and renewal center. During the season of Advent, it is easy to focus only on preparing for Christmas. However, as we worship, we will seek to shift our focus to preparing for Jesus, and waiting with holy anticipation for his promised coming. Our readings each week come from the daily lectionary, and are meant to help us reflect on Sunday’s readings.*

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

C:\Users\Rev.Jessica\Downloads\Holden-Evening-Prayer-Processional-OCT9170-1-91705.tif**SERVICE OF LIGHT**

**EVENING HYMN**

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**EVENING THANKSGIVING**

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**PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

Holy God, you renew life in desolate places, igniting hope against our expectations. Teach us to perceive the preciousness of those who are isolated or abandoned. Equip us to create welcoming spaces of safety and joy. We ask this in the name of the one for whom we wait, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**FIRST READING *Zechariah 8:1-17***

P A reading from Zechariah

The word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying: 2Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. 3Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. 4Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. 5And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. 6Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? 7Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; 8and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.9Thus says the LORD of hosts: Let your hands be strong — you that have recently been hearing these words from the mouths of the prophets who were present when the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the LORD of hosts. 10For before those days there were no wages for people or for animals, nor was there any safety from the foe for those who went out or came in, and I set them all against one other. 11But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the LORD of hosts. 12For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. 13Just as you have been a cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you shall be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong. 14For thus says the LORD of hosts: Just as I purposed to bring disaster upon you, when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, 15so again I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; do not be afraid. 16These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, 17do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.

P Word of God, Word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM *Psalm 42***

 As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
 so my soul longs for you, O God.  
**2My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
 When shall I come and behold the face of God?** 3My tears have been my food day and night,   
 while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"  
**4These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
 how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
 a multitude keeping festival.** 5Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?  Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help

**6and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.** 7Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;  
 all your waves and your billows have gone over me.  
 **8By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
 and at night his song is with me,  a prayer to the God of my life.** 9I say to God, my rock,  
 "Why have you forgotten me?  
 Why must I walk about mournfully  
 because the enemy oppresses me?"  
 **10As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"** 11Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?  Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
 my help and my God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL *Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34***

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

14When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; 15he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. 16That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. 17This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."  
28When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" 30Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. 31The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." 32And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. 33The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. 34Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HYMN ELW #256 C*omfort, Comfort Now My People***

*Sit*

**SILENT MEDITATION**

*During this time, you are invited to reflect on the readings and music for the day.*

*We don’t often get much stillness during this season. Take a few minutes to sit in the stillness, waiting with anticipation for the coming of Christ, the true reason for this season.*

P The light shines in the darkness …

**C … and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*Stand*

**THE ANNUNCIATION *Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38***

*The annunciation is sung by the leader. It segues immediately into The Magnificat.*

P An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

**THE MAGNIFICAT *Luke 1:46-55***

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**LITANY AND PRAYERS**

*The prayers begin with the congregation humming part A and singing part B below. Then, the congregation is invited to hum part A while a cantor sings each of the verses. After each verse, the congregation sings together part B.*

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

P Great and merciful God, source and ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**BLESSING**

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**SENDING**

P Let us go forth in peace.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Offerings given during midweek worship will support*

*the life and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.*

**SERVING AT TRINITY**

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Lay Leader: Amy Otterbein

Piano/Keyboard: Paul Lucas

Parish Secretary: Chris McNamara

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.

**Choir**

Amy Otterbein has agreed to director our choir for a Christmas Eve performance. The choir will be practicing Sundays after church.

**Christmas Eve Worship: 11:00 am**

All are invited to join us for worship on Christmas Eve on Saturday morning , December 24th. We know this is an unusual time but Pastor Julie Winklepleck was already committed to do an evening service elsewhere. We appreciate the fact that she is willing to do this service for us, otherwise we would not be able to have communion on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols: January 1, 2023 at 9:30am**

As we worship on the Second Sunday of Christmas, join us to hear the proclamation of Jesus’ birth and its significance for our lives today.