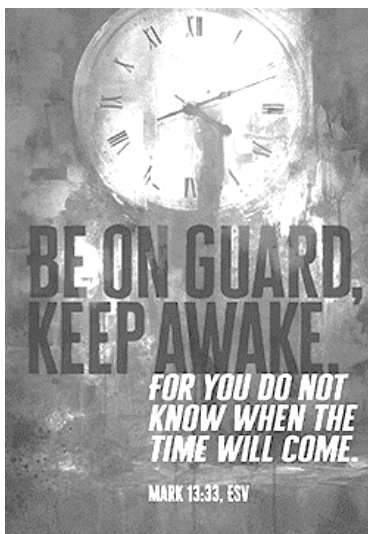


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1410 Rogers St
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Pastor Joyce Heintz
Ministers: Every Baptized Member
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m.



Trinity's Mission

Bringing God's love to the world in worship, witness, and service.

Trinity's Vision

A Christ and Scripture centered congregation.

- Mission centered congregation constantly evaluating its vision to accomplish its mission.
- A congregation whose members sense that they belong to the body of Christ and, in turn want to provide for the needs of others.

Telephone: 715 344-2869, Email: trinity@trinitysp.com
Fax: 715 344-9123, Website: www.trinitysp.com

First Sunday of Advent

Introduction to the day

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

Candle Lighting Song: **Sung to “*Away in a Manger*”** **ELW #277**

**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Gathering Song: **“*All Earth Is Hopeful*”** **ELW #266**

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

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.

Kyrie

O ten - der God, have mer - cy, for you are for us.

O liv - ing Christ, have mer - cy, for you will heal us.

O ten - der God, have mer - cy, for you are for us,

for you , are for us.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

2as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

5You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

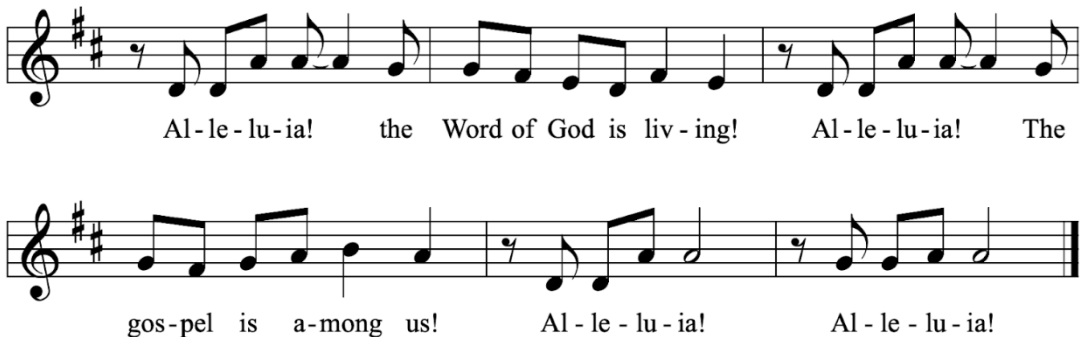
4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! the Word of God is liv - ing! Al - le - lu - ia! The
gos - pel is a - mong us! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel:

Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24“*In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.*

26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *No, Don't Wake Me, Please Don't Shake Me...*

Pastor Alan Schaffmeyer

Hymn of the Day: *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”* **ELW #244**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry. | 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold. |
| 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand. | 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free! |

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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Peace

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

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering/Choir Anthem

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly One, God of pow'r and might - y love,
 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly One, God of earth and hu - man heart,



heav-en and the earth are full of You! Hal - le - lu -
 heav-en and the earth are full of You, Em - man - u -



jah! Our hearts are break - ing o - pen. Save us, Ho -
 el. Our hearts are break - ing o - pen. Save us, Ho -



san - na. O God of pow'r and might - y love,
 san - na. Em - man - u - el, our broth - er,



help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who
 help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who



bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God!
 bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God!

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Communion Song:



O Christ, Lamb of God, shar-ing our weak - ness, our
O Christ, Lamb of God, bear-ing our heal - ing, our
O Christ, Lamb of God, shar-ing our stor - y, our



weak - ness, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
heal - ing, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
stor - y, oh grant us, grant us your peace.



Oh grant us, grant us your peace. A - men.

Communion Hymns:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW #257 vs.1-4

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW #247

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
- 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song:

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!
vs.1, 3, 5

ELW #246

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;

- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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