

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1410 Rogers St
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Pastor Joyce Heintz
Ministers: Every Baptized Member
Sunday, December 10, 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

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion “O Holy One” Setting by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Introduction to the day

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Gathering

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

Welcome and Announcements

Family Advent Candle Lighting

Candle Lighting Song:

Sung to *“Away in a Manger”* ELW #277

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare,
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

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:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW #254

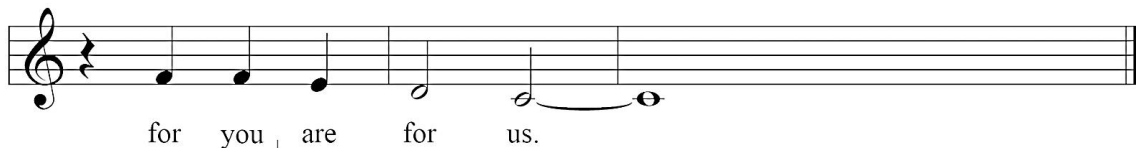
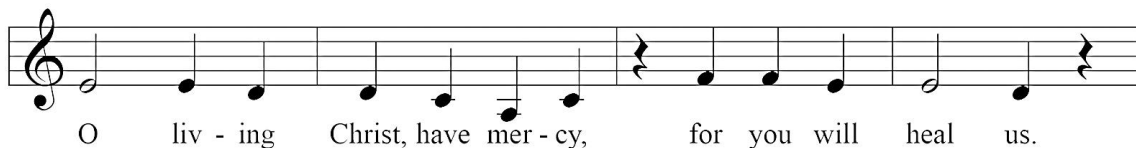
- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter.

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

8Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

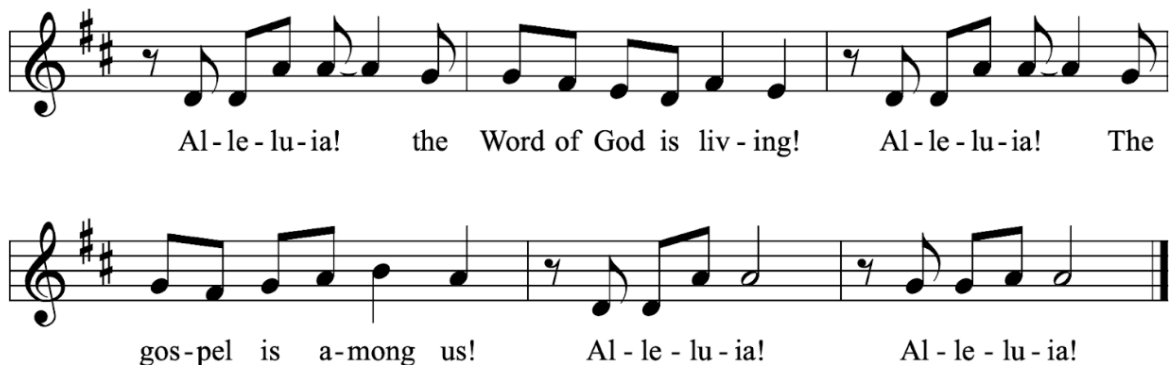
14Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15aand regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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 1:1-8

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

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Pastor Karen Jewell

Hymn of the Day:

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW #256

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.

To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.

2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way.

Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

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.
Communion bread is gluten free, and wine and grape juice are offered.

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **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

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.5-8

Refrain

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

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain

- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

***“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”* ELW #240**

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

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. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **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:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW #264

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

*Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!*

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved.

Holy Communion “O Holy One” Setting by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
text and tune: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan ©2004 This Here Music (ASCAP) www.thisheremusic.com
www.worldmaking.net. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Licensed through CCLI.