

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

612 N. Water Street, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656 Tel. (608) 269-5081

Office Email: office@tlcsparta.org Website: www.tlcsparta.org

December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15 (the 8:15 service is also live-streamed)

Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube (Trinity LutheranSparta)

Our worship service will also be recorded and will be available on our website

www.tlcsparta.org

**UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/
NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24th

3:00 & 5:00 pm with communion

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25th

9:00 am with communion

New Year's Day—Sunday, January 1st

9:00 am with communion

**Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, 2023 we will be going to
one service at 9:00 am with Sunday School and 4G at 10:00 am**

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk – Jan Bender – Brighter Tomorrows (loose change offering)

Ringling of the Bell

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Hymn: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 4)*

#240

4th Advent Candle – Candle of Love: Brittany & Matt Michalski

Hear the word from the Prophet Isaiah: 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The 3 blue candles and the pink candle are lit from the altar candle.

On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of Hope. On the second Sunday we lit the candle of Peace. On the third Sunday we lit the candle of Joy. Today we light the candle of Love. We remember the love we have for family and friends when we remember the Love Joseph and Mary had for their son. But also, when we look at the manger we see the love God has for each one of us. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but will have eternal life.” Let us rejoice today in the love we share with family and friends and the love our Father in Heaven shares with us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please join me in our Advent Prayer:

Holy God, may the light of Jesus, our Savior and Lord fill us with hope, peace, joy and love that we may be witnesses to your kingdom on earth this Christmas. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#275

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

***Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel and join with me in the Gospel
Acclamation

***Gospel Acclamation** (spoken in unison)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew the first Chapter.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear

a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Sermon

***Hymn:** *All Earth is Hopeful*

#266

***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**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

Offering – “Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.” (Luke 6:30)



Thank you for your continued support of Trinity's ongoing mission to serve the people of God in our community and the world. You may place your offering in the plate as it passes, you may also mail it in, leave it in the lockbox outside the main door, or use one of the electronic means available. Scan the QR code to donate now to Trinity's General Fund. Thank you!

***Offertory:** *We Are an Offering*

#692

***Offering Prayer**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*** The Lord's Prayer**

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**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Ring of the Bell

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Attendance for Sunday, December 11, 2022: 8:15 am – 69 and 10:30 am – 64

For November 27, 2022:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$3960.12

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$154.00

For December 4, 2022:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$10044.89

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$547.00

December 18, 2022

8:15 a.m.:

Greeters: Larry & Nila Larson

Reader: Pete Perkins

Ushers: Alice Olson, Paul Amundson, & Chuck Amundson

Music: Adell Morton

Altar Team: Month of December: Mary Herrman & Judy Bernett

Coffee Fellowship: Council Members

Pew Restocking: Month of December: Linda Erickson

Flower Pick Up: Friday, December 23: Phil & Diane Dammen

Money Counters-Monday, December 19: JoEllen Siver-Alice Olson-Gary Peterson

Food Pantry, December 21: Dennis & Carol Glaman

10:30 a.m.:

Greeters: TBD

Reader: Youth

Ushers: Mark Baltz & Dan Amundson

Music: Sunday School Christmas Program

December 24, 2022

Readers:

3:00 p.m. – Sarah Tripp

5:00 p.m. – Blaine Markuson

December 25, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Reader: Jan Jenkins

Ushers: Alice Olson, Paul Amundson, & Chuck Amundson

Music: Adell Morton

Altar Team: Month of December: Mary Herrman & Judy Bernett

Pew Restocking: Month of December: Linda Erickson

Flower Pick Up: Friday, December 30: Phil & Diane Dammen

Money Counters-Monday, December 27: Carol Glaman – Gary Peterson – Alton Ask – Audrey Zebell

Food Pantry, December 27 (Tues evening): Deb Page & Brittany Michalski
December 28: Alice Olson & Audrey Zebell