

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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**



Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Page 1

** Symbol indicates a time when the congregation stands*

***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.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

4th Advent Candle – Candle of Love:

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.

KYRIE:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



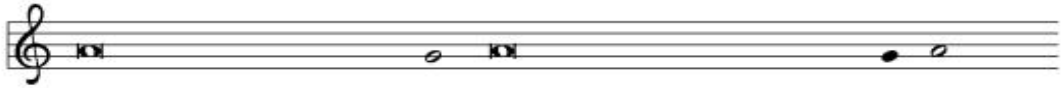
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from 2 Samuel.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**²For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**⁴'I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**²⁰I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

²¹My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.

**²²No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down.**

²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

**²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

**²⁶He will say to me, 'You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'**

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from Romans.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the

eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

***Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

***Gospel Acclamation**



This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra* *ELW 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**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you

Offering – *“Your generosity will lead to an outpouring of gratitude to God.”*
(II Corinthians 9:10-15)

***Offering Prayer**

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'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**

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 Hymn: Prepare The Royal Highway**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Attendance for Sunday, December 10th – 129

Attendance for Sunday, December 17th – 197 (Children's Christmas Program)

For November 26:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$4248.87

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$881.50

For December 3:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$8413.72

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$286.00

December 24, 2023	December 31, 2023
Greeter: TBA	Greeter: Joanne Benning
Reader: TBA	Reader: Joyce Putman
No Communion at 9:00 am	No communion
Music: 9:00 am: Adell Morton 3:00 pm: Adell Morton/Alleluia Choir 9:00 pm: Virginia Bolin	Music: 9:00 am: Adell Morton
Coffee Fellowship	Coffee Fellowship
Flower Pick Up – Friday, Dec. 29 Phil & Diane Dammen	Flower Pick Up – Friday, Jan. 5 Gary & Carol Haskins
Pew Restocking – Month of Dec.:	Pew Restocking – Month of Jan: Steve & Judy Bernett
Money Counting – December 26: Fred Olsen-Nancy Oswald-Gail Baltz- Audrey Zebell-Gary Peterson	Money Counting – Jan. 2 (Tues) Alton Ask-Audrey Zebell-PJ Sikorsky
Altar Team – Month of Dec.: Mary Herrman & Cynthia Lockington	Altar Team – Month of Jan.: Siri Donskey & Carol Glaman
Food Pantry: Dec. 26: Diane Dammen & Jolene Breitenfield Dec. 27: Donna Boland & Anita Jensen	Food Pantry: Jan 3: Jo Ellen Siver & Rita Bernette
Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery December 29 : Morrow Home: Need volunteer Rolling Hills: Gary & Betty Peterson	Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery January 5: Morrow Home: Gary & Betty Peterson Rolling Hills: Sharon Nelson