

# Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Office Email: [office@tlcsparta.org](mailto:office@tlcsparta.org) Website: [www.tlcsparta.org](http://www.tlcsparta.org)

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**December 10, 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](http://www.tlcsparta.org)**



## Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Special Music: Bell Choir

**\*Opening Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

**ELW 255**

**\*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

The Candle of Peace:

Hear the word from the Prophet Isaiah: 57:14-19

<sup>14</sup> It shall be said,

“Build up, build up, prepare the way;  
remove every obstruction from my people’s way.”

<sup>15</sup> For thus says the high and lofty one  
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

I dwell in the high and holy place  
and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the humble  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

<sup>16</sup> For I will not continually accuse,  
nor will I always be angry,  
for then the spirits would grow faint before me,  
even the souls that I have made.

<sup>17</sup> Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;  
I struck them; I hid and was angry,  
but they kept turning back to their own ways.

<sup>18</sup> I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;  
I will lead them and repay them with comfort,

<sup>19</sup> creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.<sup>[a]</sup>  
Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the LORD,  
and I will heal them.

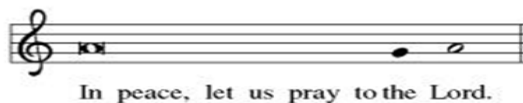
Two candles are lit from the Altar candle

Last week, we began our season of Advent with the lighting of the candle of Hope.  
In the midst of the tumult of this world, our hope is in Jesus Christ, God’s son

who came to earth as a baby in the manger and will come again to bring the fullness of God's kingdom to the earth. Today we light the candle of peace. The prophet Isaiah reminds that God longs for us to know peace; among nations, within relationships and within our hearts. "Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the Lord. "And I will heal them." May each one of us be instruments of God's peace this Advent Season.  
Please join me in our Advent Prayer.

**Holy God, Bring the light of peace into your world. May all nations live in peace. May every heart be filled with peace. May the hope and peace of Jesus Christ fill our lives this Advent. Amen.**

### KYRIE:

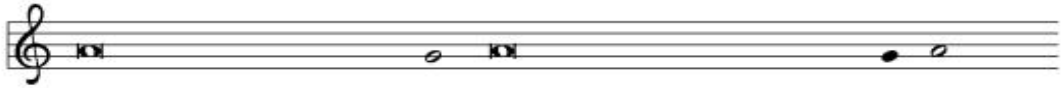




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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 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.**

Special Music: Bell Choir

## **Children's Sermon**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak 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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every 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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup>Get 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!”  
<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He 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.**

**Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts  
to you.  
<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## **Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A reading from 2 Peter.

<sup>8</sup>Do 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. <sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

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

**\*Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

## \*Gospel Acclamation



This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I 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

**Hymn of the Day: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

***ELW 256***

**\*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.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. 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 – *“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:31-33)

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

ELW 692

**\*Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

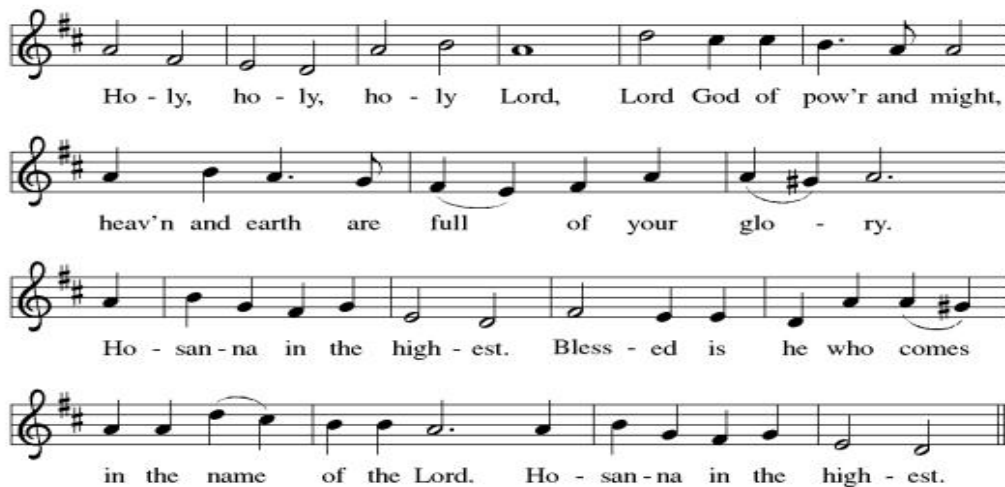
## \*Great Thanksgiving Page 152



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## \*Preface

## \*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Page 153



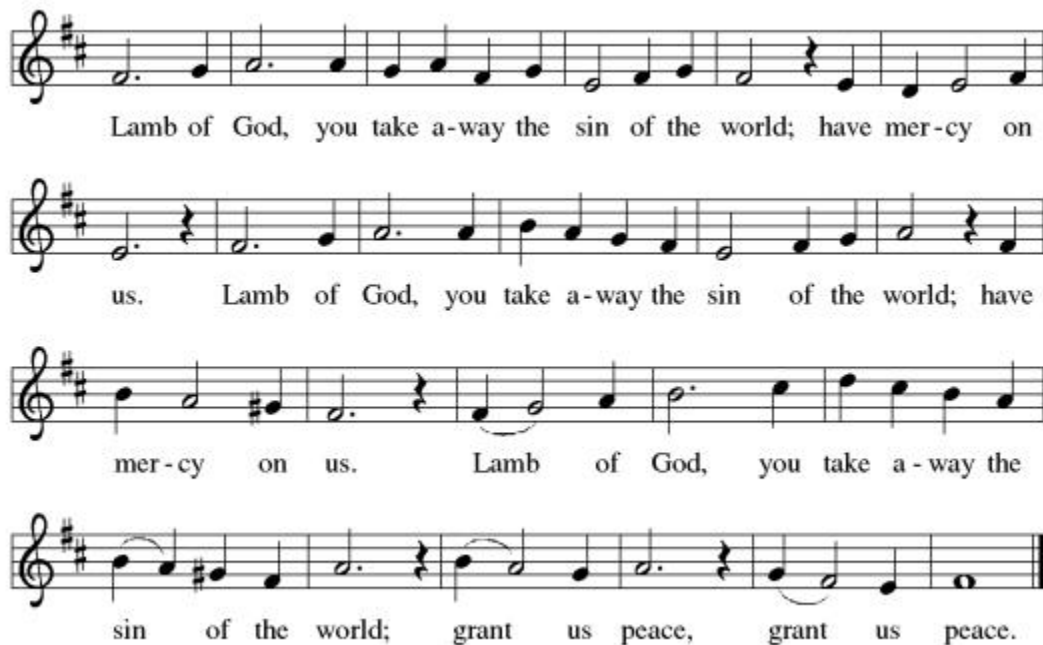
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*Words of Institution

### \*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.**

### Distribution of Communion:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### Distribution Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

### **\*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.**

### **\*Blessing of Home Communion Kits**

#### **\*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: He Came Down**

**ELW 253**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Attendance for Sunday, December 3, 2023 – 149**

<b><u>December 10, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>December 17, 2023</u></b>
<b>Greeter:</b> Sharon Amundson	<b>Greeters:</b> TBA
<b>Reader:</b> Pete Perkins	<b>Reader:</b> SS Christmas Program
<b>Communion:</b> Gary Haskins and Stacey Markuson	<b>No communion</b>
<b>Music:</b> Wyatt Tripp <b>Special Music:</b> Bell Choir	<b>Music:</b> Adell Morton – Sunday School Christmas Program
<b>Lighting of the Advent Candle:</b> Erickson Family	<b>Lighting of the Advent Candle:</b> Sunday School Children
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Opportunity to serve	<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Sunday School Families
<b>Flower Pick Up – Friday, Dec. 15:</b> Phil & Diane Dammen	<b>Flower Pick Up – Friday, Dec. 22</b> Phil & Diane Dammen
<b>Pew Restocking – Month of Dec.:</b> Looking for a volunteer	<b>Pew Restocking – Month of Dec.:</b> Looking for a volunteer
<b>Money Counting – December 11:</b> Rita Bernette-Bill McClain-Alton Ask	<b>Money Counting – December 18:</b> Linda Winterton-Dave Olson-Diane Dammen
<b>Altar Team – Month of Dec.:</b> Mary Herrman & Cynthia Lockington	<b>Altar Team – Month of Dec.:</b> Mary Herrman & Cynthia Lockington
<b>Food Pantry:</b> Dec. 13: Sharon Nelson & Judy Bernett	<b>Food Pantry:</b> Dec. 20: Mary Herrman & Sheila Abbott
<b>Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery December 15:</b> Morrow Home: Larry & Lana Zwiefel Rolling Hills: Jonelle Intihar	<b>Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery December 22:</b> Morrow Home: Evelyn Rust Rolling Hills: Carol Thorsen

