

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – Traditional Service with Holy Communion



Joy

WELCOME TO ALL

Welcome to worship at Trinity Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here. We are delighted to gather as one people in the name of the risen Lord Jesus, in whose power over disease and death we take hope. Please use this bulletin to participate in the liturgy and take it with you when the service is ended.

Based on revised CDC guidance, we are no longer encouraging the wearing of masks for those attending worship, regardless of vaccination status. However, if you have symptoms, have tested positive for Covid or been exposed to someone with Covid-19, we ask that you do wear a mask. Please feel free to continue wearing a mask in worship for your safety, if desired. This guidance may change if our risk level changes.

Bathrooms are located down the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Children are always welcome during worship, but if desired, there is a nursery in room 107 available for children ages birth to school age.

Please be aware that we are streaming our services. If you do not wish to be on camera please contact the church office.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Traditional Service with Holy Communion

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation responds in bold print.

Please respect the silence of those around you preparing for worship.

PRELUDE

“The Desert Shall Rejoice”

Lani Smith

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

The Barra Family

Third Sunday in Advent:

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the *candle of joy*. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained,
but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.
Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

OPENING HYMN

"He Came Down"

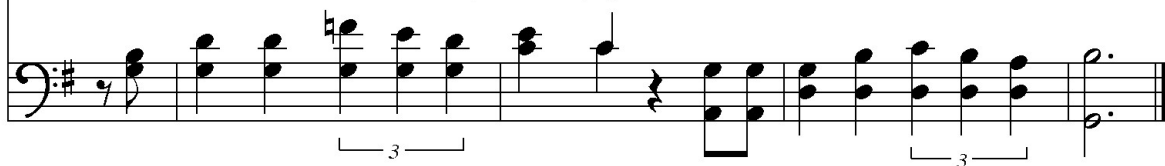
ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



APOSTOLIC 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we



praise you for your glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people,

Lord God,

and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that,

anointed by your Spirit,

we may testify to your light;

through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!



PSALMODY

Psalm 126

We will speak the Psalm responsively.

The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Barb Barry

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Names of family & friends in prayer found on page 17.

A brief silence.

Response following each petition:

L: Merciful God.

R: receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous and faithful support. We are not currently passing the collection plates; instead you may place your offerings in the plates provided by the door as you enter or exit worship.

If you prefer, Trinity offers 5 other ways to give as well:

Text, Mail, Mobile, Automatic Transfer, & Online. Contact the church office for details.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

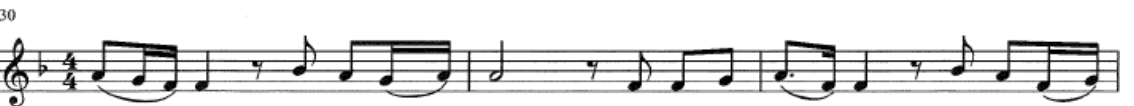
Pastor sings: ...and as you drink it, remember Me...



All Sing: So, we thank You for_ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we



see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed And we re -



-mem - ber Your won- drous love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your



blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous



love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

Thanks be to God.



Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

*All baptized followers of Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
Communicants are ushered forward row-by-row.
Please open your hand and the pastor will place the bread in your hand.
Once you have eaten the bread, the communion assistant will offer you
a cup of wine or juice from the tray.
Wine is red. Juice is white.
After drinking, you may return to your seat along the side aisle.*

Communion Anthem:

*"Advent Psalm"
Senior Choir*

Bach/Fetke

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*James Druckenbrod, Donald Grier,
Philip Labaugh, Barb Montgomery, & Brenda Runshaw*

Gracious God, as you have sent messengers of compassion to your people, we send these Eucharistic ministers in your name. Empower them to serve brothers and sisters who are unable to share the sacrament with us today. Fill them with your Spirit; give them the gifts of humility, patience, gentleness, kindness, and above all, love, that through their ministry others may know the peace of your presence, and that by the body and blood of your Son they may experience the joy of your salvation.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far,
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



SENDING

DISMISSAL

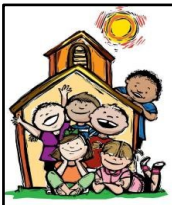
Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Prichard

*Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of Kaitlyn Hawbaker’s 21st birthday
by her parents, Matt and Heidi, and brother, Levi.*



*The children’s bulletins are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of our grandchildren and
great grandchildren by Merle and Emily Dentler.*

*Worship bulletins are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of Merle’s sister Linda on her 80th Birthday on
Christmas Day by Merle and Emily Dentler.*



LAST WEEKS ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, December 10, 2023:	93
Online views:	74

Next week’s Lessons:

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
- Luke 1:46b-55
- Romans 16:25-27
- Luke 1:26-38



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Preacher /Presider	Pastor Barb Barry
Organist	Robert Eyer, Jr.
Candle Lighting	The Barra Family
Ushers	Dewey Hutsler Phil Lobaugh
Acolyte	Frank Barra
Lector	Erich Vogel
Cantor	Benton Miller
Communion Asst.	Kathy Ashway Laurie Vogel
Communion Prep	Don Grier
Livestream Team	Jason Brown
Nursery	Linda Hins

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS



We Pray For

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family & Friends of Melanie Bays	Sharon Emmons	Deb Hutsler
Diane Sterner	Carl Fahnestock	Thomas Clarke
Dodie Tash	Bob Shannon	Brenda Zullinger
Paul Stockhausen	Bea Clark	Marlene Fisher
Barry	Linda Remson	Mary Royce
Stanley Shilling	Bernice Conner	Phyllis Dusman
Tammy McDonald	Jean Baughman	Floss Sterner
Becky Morningstar	Sue Lensbower	Curt Stambaugh
Shirley Shilling	Doris Kriebel	Cheryl Kelly
Judy Royce	Greg Wilson	Cameron
Denny Verner	Doug Price	

MEMBERS

Michael & Rene McCleary	Joyce, Joseph & Tammy McDonald	Molly McGinnis	Benton Miller
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*****Names may be added / removed by calling the church office.***

*****Names will normally be removed after 4 weeks.***

OFFERING

Total Budgeted Giving Expected as of December 10, 2023: \$182,307.83

Amount received as of December 10: \$138,013.68

Thank You!

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING *SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services*

December's special offering for the month is for the SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services and the Prison Ministry. Please remember these special ministries with your offering this month.

In case of Inclement Weather

GO TO TRINITY'S WEBSITE:
<https://trinitylutheranchambersburg.org>

GO TO TRINITY'S FACEBOOK PAGE
[@trinitychambersburg](#)

GO TO TRINITY'S INSTAGRAM PAGE
[@trinitylutheranchburg](#)

WGAL - News 8 Closings & Delays

Please give a warm

" Trinity Welcome "

to

Monica Crider

Trinity's new Communications Secretary!

and

Please give a fond

" Farewell and Godspeed "

to

Christie

for all of her hard work and dedication to Trinity over the years!

CHRISTMAS EVE *Candlelight Service*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

7 PM

in-person & streamed


TRINITY


Evangelical Lutheran Church

431 Philadelphia Avenue
Chambersburg, PA
717-263-8156

www.trinitylutheranchambersburg.org

[@trinitychambersburg](#)

 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Chambersburg

 @trinitylutheranchburg



*Advent Worship
Service Schedule*

Sunday, December 24 at 10 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In-Person and Streamed



SEWING GROUP

Jan. 31, 2024 @ 11 AM

@ Helen W's home.

For more info call/email the church office.

THIS WEEK @ TRINITY

Sunday - 12/17	9:00 AM	<i>Learning for all Ages:</i> Scripture and Coffee - Lounge High School Class - Social Hall - Stage Confirmation - Cloud 9 2 nd to 5 th Grade - Library Preschool to 1 st Grade - Nursery
	10:00 AM	Worship - Sanctuary <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Lounge Reserved
Monday - 12/18	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Boy Troop - Scout Room
Tuesday - 12/19	6:30-8:30 PM	Girl Troop - Scout Room
Wednesday - 12/20	5:30 PM	Yoga - Social Hall
	7:00 PM	Choir - Sanctuary
Thursday - 12/21	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Girl Scouts - Library and Scout Room
Friday - 12/22	5:30 - 9:00 PM	Dance Works - Social Hall
	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Cub Scouts - Scout Room
	8:00 -10:00 PM	Girl Troop - Scout Room
Saturday - 12/23		National Christmas Movie Marathon Day
Sunday - 12/24	9:00 AM	<i>Learning for all Ages:</i> Scripture and Coffee - Lounge High School Class - Social Hall - Stage Confirmation - Cloud 9 2 nd to 5 th Grade - Library Preschool to 1 st Grade - Nursery
	10:00 AM	Worship - Sanctuary <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
	7:00 PM	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>

Dear Congregation, All contributions for the 2023 tax year need to be received by 12/28/2023 if mailing to the church. The 12/31/2023 in-person service offering will be the last offering counted for the calendar year 2023.

Thank you, Cindy Scanzello, Financial Secretary



TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

431 Philadelphia Avenue
Chambersburg, PA

www.trinitylutheranchambersburg.org



@trinitychambersburg



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Chambersburg



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OFFICE HOURS

9 AM - 1 PM Mon. - Thurs.
office@trinitychbg.org
717-263-8156

PASTORS' CONTACT INFO

Pastor Barb Barry
pastorbarb@trinitychbg.org
717-357-3150

Pastor Ruth Smith
rsmith183@comcast.net
801-419-8312

TRINITY STAFF TO SERVE YOU

Pastor	<i>The Rev. Barbara Barry</i>
Visitation Pastor	<i>The Rev. Ruth Smith</i>
Director of Music Ministries	<i>Robert Eyer, Jr.</i>
Office Manager	<i>Christie Cistone</i>
Communications Secretary	<i>Monica Crider</i>
Administrative Assistant	<i>Priscilla Cullinane</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dennis Alleman</i>
Financial Secretary	<i>Cindy Scanzello</i>
Livestream Coordinator	<i>Jason Brown</i>

TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL

Council President	<i>Evan Sutton</i>
Council Vice President	<i>Gloria McCauley</i>
Council Secretary	<i>Joyce McDonald</i>

COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>Kathy Ashway</i>	<i>Ray Brindle</i>
<i>Heidi Hawbaker</i>	<i>Laura Pearce</i>
<i>Ken Saylor</i>	<i>David Wenerd</i>
<i>Wallace Whitworth</i>	

Vision

"Growing in God"

Mission Statement

*"Seed - Planting and Growing in our Faith
Sow - Sharing the word of God with our community
Steward - Giving to all the love of God
Service - Showing the love of God with our community"*