



*Our mission, as God's people, is to **gather** in worship, **grow** in faith, and **go** in service in the name of our Risen Lord.
Our vision – Sharing God's love, hope and healing.*

**Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 11, 2022**

Prelude: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Lighting the Advent Candle: "Light of Light" arr. by Joel Raney (Congregation Sings)

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

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*Responsive Reading for Third Sunday - Light of Joy

L Advent is a time to celebrate joy of living.

C **Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

L Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

C **Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

L Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

C **Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

L Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

C **Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

L Today we light three candles - the candle of hope, of peace and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

***Greeting:**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day:**

All Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Kids Word: Nancy Carlson

Our first reading is from Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10 - (Read responsively between Lector and Congregation.)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

*Please stand as you are able.

Our second reading is from James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L Word of God. Word of life. C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Sanctuary" arr. by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

English:	Spanish:
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary	Señor, prepárame para ser un santuario
Pure and holy, tried and true	Puro y santo, probado y verdadero
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living	Con Acción de Gracias, seré una vida
Sanctuary for You	Santuario para ti

***Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11**

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor James Hilleson

*Please stand as you are able.



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
loam, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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***Apostles' Creed:**

P&C 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:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)

L For our prayers today, I will conclude each petition with "God, in your mercy" and your response is, "**receive our prayer.**"

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

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss, especially those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Welcoming God, help us to be welcoming to the stranger among us. We give thanks for all our relationships with family and friends and ask you to help us nurture and sustain them. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

receive 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.

*Please stand as you are able.

***Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering:

If you would like to give electronically, you may

1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Play or Apple Store, or
2. Go to our website www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

Offering Anthem: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. by Joel Raney

HTLC Choir

***Offertory Hymn:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW 674

One License: A-727907



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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***Offering Prayer:**

L Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, 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.

C **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.

***Words of Institution**

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:**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (Lord's Prayer)

All 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:**

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Communion Hymn: "Lamb of God" (setting 6)

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*Please stand as you are able.

Distribution:

This is the Table of Grace for all who belong to Christ and seek his gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. We extend to you all that we have in the Lord Jesus and invite you to his Holy Supper. Those communing with us who haven't been baptized and desire God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation in Holy Baptism are invited to talk to the Pastor. Communion is continuous as we kneel at the altar. White grape juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Communicants come to the altar down the center aisle, fill in the communion rail from left to right and return by the side aisles.

Communion Hymn: "Wait for the Lord" ELW 262

One License: A-727907

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.***Post Communion Blessing:**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
All Amen.

***Post Communion Prayer:**

L Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

***Sending Call and Response:**

L God's work!

C **Our hands!**

L God's love!

C **Our hearts!**

L God's story!

C **Our voices!**

*Please stand as you are able.

***Benediction:**

P 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.

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World" ELW 267**

Public Domain



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.

Announcements for December 11, 2022

This week's Prayers: Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Amy O'Neal
Stephanie and Rich Thompson
Kent Windmiller, Karen Wenger's brother
Gwen Carey
Maria and her family in Ukraine
Arlene Murphy, Mike Metzcar's sister
Dan Haynes
For all who are sick and suffering
Roberta Debolt
Sue Metzcar
John Paul Metzcar
Liam, 2 year-old great grandson of Nancy Brown
Mary Broughton
For all who are suffering with Covid
For the people of Ukraine

Flowers at the Altar:

The first bouquet of flowers are given by Becki Bergs in celebration of Edna Bonda's 92nd birthday. The second and third bouquet of flowers are given by Betty Haffner in memory of Jacob Haffner Jr. and Charles Tester.

(If you would like to purchase a \$10 flower arrangement to decorate the altar, please fill out the flower chart on the closet door in the lobby/narthex and make sure to fill out a slip and put the slip in the envelope with your check or money and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Thank you.)

Serving in Worship Today:

Acolyte:

Usher: Dick Elias and Roger Hollands

Greeter: Sue Elias

Lay Worship Leader, Lector and Communion Assistant: Becke Bly

Altar Guild: Diane Scholer

Birthdays and Anniversaries for December 11 - 17, 2022:

Birthdays:

December 11 - Mike Metzcar

December 12 - Laura Adamson

December 12 - Ruth Dailey

December 14 - Jeff Bird

December 14 - Carmen Costello

December 15 - Gerry Fisher

Anniversaries:

December 16 - John and Karen Huff

December 17 - John and Brenda Kearns

Calendar of Events for the Week of December 11:

Sunday, December 11 - Bible Study in room 102 (9am) and Worship (10am)

Monday, December 12 - Bible Study (10am), Choir Practice (4pm) and Council Meeting (6:30pm)

Tuesday, December 13 - Walking Group meets in parking lot (9am), Binding Ties Group Meets (10am), and Staff Meeting (10:30am)

Wednesday, December 14 - Pitch-In Soup Dinner (6pm) and Holden Evening Service (7pm)

Saturday, December 17 - Open Hands Food Distribution (8:30am), Step Aerobics (9:30am) and Salvation Bell Ringing at the Muncie Mall (2pm - 7pm)

Pitch-In Soup Dinner and Holden Evening Prayer Service, Wednesday, December 14:

Please bring soup to share and join us in fellowship hall at 6pm for a pitch-in soup dinner, followed by Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7pm in the sanctuary on Wednesday, December 14.

From Outreach:

Collection of saltine crackers for the Panther Pantry at Southside Middle School. Our goal is 160 boxes to help with their Christmas season distribution to families in need. Any brand is fine, and we thank you for being a part of this holiday effort.

From Outreach:

We will ring bells again this Christmas season for the Salvation Army. The hours are 2pm to 7PM at Muncie Mall (East entrance next to MCL) on Saturday, December 17. A sign -up sheet is located in the Narthex. Thank you for caring for others, and for your gift of time.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Choir Singing:

Please join us as we gather for worship on Saturday, December 24, at 8:00pm for our annual Christmas Eve Service with the choir singing at 7:45pm. This service is for the whole family with our traditional candlelight singing of "Silent Night." A beautiful way to start the 12 days of Christmas!

Christmas Morning Worship Service:

We will gather on Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25 at 10am for worship. There will not be any Bible study or Sunday School classes on Christmas morning.