

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus of Nazareth points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in worship and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of the Christ's advent among us.

<u>Prelude</u> Pastorale Francesco Manfredini (1684-1762)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the • Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Let us prepare to welcome the Christ by turning from our sin and seeking God's tender mercy and compassion.

silence for reflection

P: Almighty God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us. Amen

P: In the advent of the Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you and forgives you all your sins.

C: Amen

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
 Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
 He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression and rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go; and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

(tune: Aurelia)

4 Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Apostolic 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.

Kyrie



(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent because of the reflective, preparatory nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHRISMONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

- P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: All those who await his appearance pray:
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: The whole creation pleads:
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: Eternal God, at the beginning of creation
- C: you made the light that scatters all darkness.
- P: May the Christ, the true light, shine on your people
- C: and free us from the power of sin and death.
- P: Fill us with joy as we welcome your Son at his glorious coming;
- C: for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Chrismon 1

Jerusalem Cross with Crosses

First Lesson - Baruch 4:36-5:9

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem,

and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;

they are coming, gathered from east and west,

at the word of the Holy One,

rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,

and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,

"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;

look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east

at the word of the Holy One,

rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,

led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,

carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,

so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

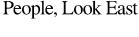
The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.







Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Chrismon 2

Ship of Salvation

Second Lesson - Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other,

"Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Carol

A Ship with Precious Cargo

arr. Heinz Wunderlich (1919-2012)

A ship with cargo precious Comes sailing to our land, It bears God's Son most gracious From His almighty hand.

The ship in quiet manner Comes sailing from afar, Love is its flying banner, The Holy Ghost its spar.

With anchor held securely The ship is tied to earth: The Word of God comes surely For us in human birth.

In Bethlehem, so lowly, will come the Christ Child. Thank Him with praises holy Who died for all defiled.

Chrismon 3 Gladiolus

Third Lesson - Micah 5:2-4

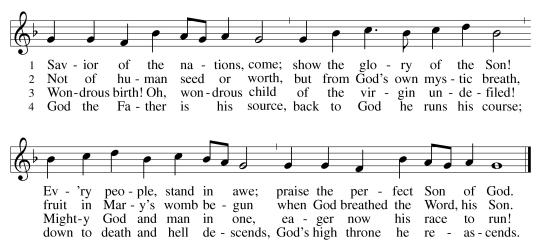
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 5 He leaves heaven to return; trav'ling where dull hellfires burn; riding out, returning home as the Savior who has come.
- 6 God the Father's precious Son girds himself in flesh to run for the trophies of our souls, longer than this round earth rolls.
- 7 Shining stable in the night, breathing vict'ry with your light; darkness cannot hide your flame, shining bright as Jesus'name.

Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

Text sts. 3-4 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Chrismon 4

His Name Will Be Called

Fourth Lesson - Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Carol

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

arr. Paul Bunjes (1914-1998)

Comfort, comfort ye my people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God; Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.

Hark, the Herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near, Bidding all men to repentance since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Sun of Righteousness

Fifth Lesson - Isaiah 9:2-5, 7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

Lost in the Night





Text: Finnish song; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt. Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Chrismon 6

Open Pearl Rose

Sixth Lesson - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Carol

The Annunciation (1639)

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Gabriel: Hail thou favored, hail Mary, the Lord is with thee, thou who are most blessed of women. Mary, fear not, for God has to thee given of his favor. And behold, know that thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and thou shalt bear thy first son, whose name thou shalt call Jesus: And he shall be of the highest and great shall he be. For the Holy Ghost shall then come upon thee, and the power of heaven shall then over shadow thee: And the child shall holy be, that from thy womb shall be born, the Son of God shall he be called. Behold thou, Elizabeth, who is thy cousin, she hath also conceived a son in her later years, and it is now in the sixth month with her who was despised, for she was barren called. For the Lord is almighty.

Mary: What strange words are these? How can this truly happen, seeing I know not a man? Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be so as thou hast said it.

Choir: I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be so as thou hast said it. Alleluja.

(Grace Parker and Eunice Choi, soloists)

- P: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C: Hosanna in the highest.
- P: Show us your mercy, O Lord,
- C: and grant us your salvation.
- P: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world,
- C: for only in you can we live in safety.
- P: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten.
- C: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

- P: Shower, O heavens, from above,
- C: and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- P: Come, O Lord, at evening, with light,
- C: and in the morning, with your glory, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

- P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we belove:
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 - I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 - He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
 - He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
 - He descended into hell.
 - On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus the Christ and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: When lands are parched and dry, may rain and snow bring refreshment; where wilderness is barren, may seeds of life be sown. May the lands be filled with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, help us root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: When people are imprisoned unfairly or held captive, help us break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the Church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness inspire our witness and work. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

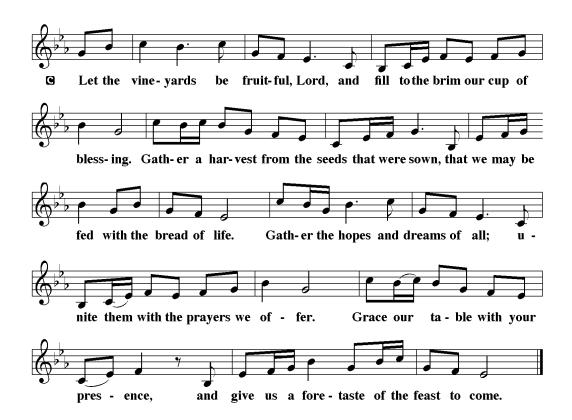
Offering

Offertory

Pifa

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Offertory

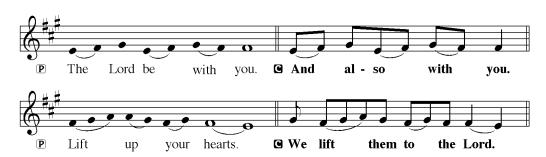


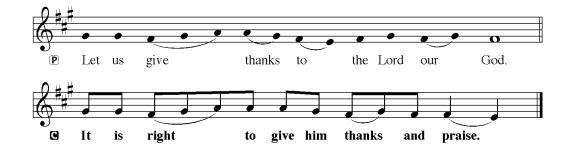
Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

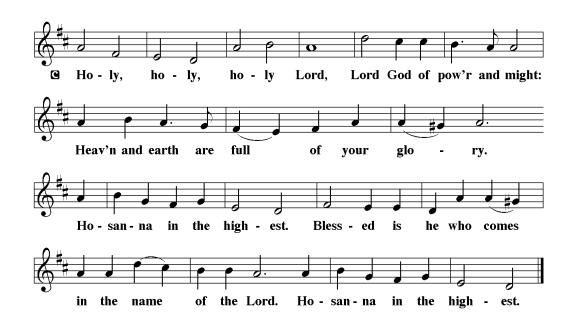
Great Thanksgiving





P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

C: 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

Communion with our Risen Lord





Hymns

Now We Join in Celebration



- 1 Now we join in cel e bra tion at our Sav ior's in vi ta tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath er, fill our hearts with ho ly rap ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com-mu-nion as one fam-'ly of God's chil-dren,



dressed no more in spir-it som-ber, clothed in-stead in joy and won - der; For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess - ing rec - on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex-is-tence, put-ting off di-vine tran-scen-dence, of your lov-ing deed on Cal-v'ry, of your liv-ing self, our vic-t'ry, Give us grace to live for oth-ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang-ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us. pledge of your un - fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad - ness. seek - ing jus-tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Come, Let Us Eat

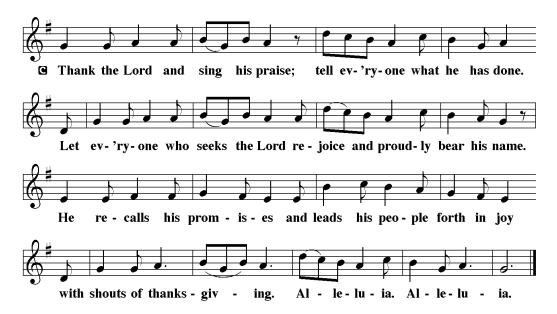


Post -Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

Post-Communion Canticle

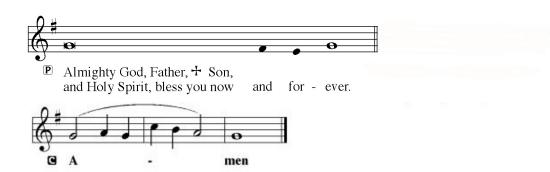


Post-Communion Prayer for Advent

A: Let us pray.

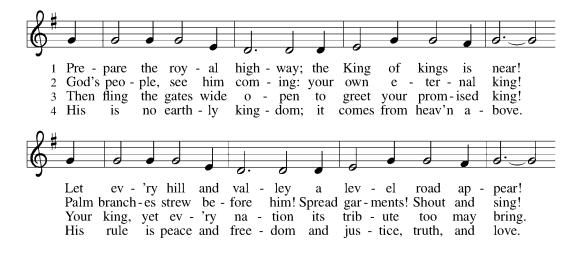
C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

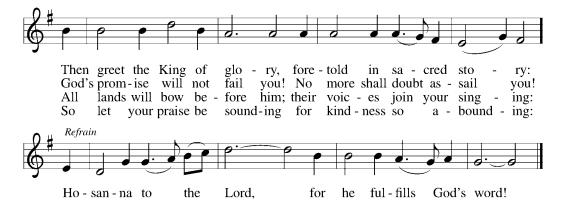
Benediction



Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway





Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

<u>Postlude</u> Pastorale

Gaetano Maria Schiassi (1698-1754)



The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God by Margie Lippard in memory of Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Lippard.

The candles are given to the glory of God by April Whalen and Bruce Gerlich in loving memory of their brother, Glenn Gerlich.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion Children's Nativity Rehearsal & Sunday Church School Service of Holy Communion and Chrismons & Carols for Advent with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion Intermediate Youth (grades three - five) Junior Youth (grades six - eight) Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)
Monday, December 15		Strength and Balance Exercise Class Chair Yoga Class
Tuesday, December 16	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 17	5:30 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion Evening Worship (via YouTube) Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 18	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, December 19		Strength and Balance Exercise Class Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, December 21	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion Children's Nativity Rehearsal & Sunday Church School Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve) Youth Caroling

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 1000 Langhorne Road Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

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President: Eric R. Kenny Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson Susan H. Williams

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

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