



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 292 Orange St., New Haven, CT  
 TrinityLutheranNH.org – (203) 787-6521  
 Service of Holy Communion—*Lutheran Book of Worship*, Setting II  
 The Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024  
 In-Person at 10:15 a.m. & Live at Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranNH

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* **LBW No. 30****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.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray...

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**ADVENT LITANY:** *"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"* **LBW. No. 34, vs. 4****FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** *"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"* **WOV (Blue) No. 635** *Tune: Beach Street*

### **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and all-surpassing peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty Lord who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign cannot rest on identity, but is found in bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"* **LBW No. 36**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

D: In our prayers today and this week, please remember: [prayer list]. We also invite your own petitions either aloud or silently in your hearts.

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, you once sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your only Son, that your people might bear fruits worthy of repentance. We pray for your Church, that knowing your Son approaches near it might be revived in faith and worship, in fellowship and in love And grant that all who have been baptized into your Son by the Holy Spirit might be faithful in their callings, loving you with all their heart and soul and mind and strength, and their neighbor as themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation called Trinity, that we might rejoice in you this season. Knowing that you are near, grant us grace not to worry about anything, but to let our cares be made known to you who cares for us. And let your peace, which surpasses understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make the leaders of this and every nation acknowledge your justice, and strive to govern in obedience to it. Give courage and steadfastness to all who serve others in our communities, and watch over those who serve in harm's way. And give to all, especially the poor and lowly, all that is good, that all people may give thanks and call upon your Name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of your saving love this day; for who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; and for all whose trust in you is shaken. We especially remember those we have named before you, and those who have asked for our prayers. In your great compassion save the lame, gather the outcast, turn their shame into praise, and gather all your children home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, as we eagerly await the coming of your Son in glory we also await a joyful reunion with our departed loved ones. As we wait to be gathered together into our eternal home, make us gentle, faithful, joyful, and steadfast in love. And, at your Son's coming, bring us safely to our heavenly home, where we will rejoice in your goodness forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

**OFFERING** *The ushers collect the offering. You can also give electronically through our website, Facebook page, or by [clicking here](#).*

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"* H.H. Bancroft

**OFFERTORY:** *"What Shall I Render"*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Merciful Father,

**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.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**THE COMMUNION** *To all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord, are baptized, and confess Jesus' real presence in the Holy Communion, we invite you to join us in the Holy Eucharist. At the usher's invitation you may come forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail. Please take an empty individual cup from the tray and bring it with you to the rail. The host wafer will be placed into your open hands to eat. Your cup will be filled from the pouring chalice, take and drink. Individual cups filled with non-alcoholic grape juice are also available, please point to receive one. Sealed pre-consecrated Communion packages are also available. Please remain at the altar rail until all have finished and a blessing is given.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS: LBW Nos. 33, 38****POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Create in Me"****POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

D: Let us pray...

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come" LBW No. 28****DISMISSAL**

D: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**