



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

*First Sunday in Advent
November 28 and 29, 2020*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of Holy Communion

Significance of the Day: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Gathering

Prelude Variations on *Conditor Alme Siderum* (Manz et al)

Greeting and Announcements

(The assembly stands as the ministers enter.)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed
the stranger;**

we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;

So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

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.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light

and to seek your ways of justice and peace,

for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep,

that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes

and welcome him into our hearts and homes,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

A reading from Isaiah:

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

(The Psalm will be spoken responsively.)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia.

**Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.**

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

Jesus said:

24 “But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

(The assembly remains seated.)

Hymn of the Day

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, responding, “Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great”

(Brief silence)

A: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ’s name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. We pray for your church, for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors and musicians, council members and teachers and all who take part in the ministry in this place. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. We pray for our president, Donald; our president-elect, Joe; our governor, Tom; and all of our elected municipal and school leaders. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. We pray for those who lost their jobs because of COVID-19 whose unemployment is running out and who are facing rental and mortgage issues. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. We pray for our congregation and others in our community as we struggle with how to keep our houses of worship open and safe for your people. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know -- Alice, Ron, Ken and Bob -- and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering

Interlude on *Lucent*

(Schalk)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shines ever new

and our lives reveal your light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

your Son Jesus came to bring us your love

and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

As the bread is broken:

They will come from East and West, and from North and South, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Come, Lord Jesus.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: *We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,
we give you thanks for this meal of life
that you have set before us.
May our sharing of this heavenly food,
in which you are present even now,
nourish our faith, strengthen us for service,
and deepen our hunger for the coming of your reign
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Silence for reflection.)

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on *Merton*

(Manz)

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Pianist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Dan Eppley

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Marj Stubert
Communion Assistant Nancy McLaughlin
Lector Judi Moinet
Head Usher Jim Martin
Altar Guild The Richardson family

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes

The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor

The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College