



*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville*

*Second Sunday in Advent  
December 5 and 6, 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:** John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

### *Gathering*

Prelude                      Variations on *Freu dich Sehr*                      (Fedak 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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(The assembly is seated.)*

A reading from Isaiah:

1 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

2 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.

3 A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 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.

5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.  
2 You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.  
8 I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.  
9 Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.  
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.  
11 Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.  
12 The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

A reading from 2 Peter:

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15a and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

**Alleluia.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord.  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’ ”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

*(The assembly remains seated.)*

"Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

## Presentation

*Candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:*

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors present the candidate:*

I present Vance Harvey for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring the child:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Vance baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

As you bring him to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Vance grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Vance in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Vance and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

#### Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses the candidate for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* **I renounce them.**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

*Water may be poured into the font.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

Baptism

Vance, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*After the baptism, the assembly responds:*

**Blessed be God, the source of all life,  
the word of salvation,  
the spirit of mercy.**

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:*  
Sustain Vance with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.*

Vance, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

Welcome

*A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:*

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.*

## Prayers of Intercession

A: God of power and might, comfort your people 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: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, teachers and committee and council members. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. We pray for our president, Donald; our president-elect, Joe; our governor, Tom; and our local government and school leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. We pray for all those affected by Covid-19 who are sick, who are fearful, who have experienced financial losses, who are restless from being house-bound, who are experiencing anxiety. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. We lift to you the joy of today's baptism of Vance, as you call him to you and name him one of your children. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work, especially Alice, Bob, Ken, Ron, and Bob. Make their generous lives an example for all. 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 *Ososo*

(Lee/Frahm)

*(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 *Berenden Vag For Herran*

(Ore)

**Serving Tonight**

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Brenda Martin  
**Pianist** ..... Maidene Hackett  
**Liturgical Deacon** ..... Barbara Swartz

**Serving Today**

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Brenda Martin  
**Organist** ..... Maidene Hackett  
**Liturgical Deacon** ..... David Lineman  
**Communion Assistant** ..... Alyssa Martin  
**Lector** ..... Don Achenbach  
**Head Usher** ..... Linda Armstrong  
**Altar Guild** ..... Alyssa Martin and 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