



*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville*  
*Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon*  
*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hermitage*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 20, 2020*

## Service of the Word

**Significance of the Day:** God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

### *Gathering*

Prelude                      Selections from Suite on *Basque Carol*                      (Meyers)

Greeting and Announcements

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - `ry na - tion, joy of ev - `ry long - ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

### 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 wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

A reading from 2 Samuel:

1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished  
forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
- 4 "I will establish your | line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all | generations."
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.
- 20 I have found Da- | vid my servant;  
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.
- 21 My hand will | hold him fast  
and my arm will | make him strong.
- 22 No enemy | shall deceive him,  
nor shall the wicked | bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his | foes before him  
and strike down | those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and steadfast | love are with him,  
and he shall be victorious | through my name.
- 25 I will set his hand | on the sea,  
and his right hand | on the rivers.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You | are my father,  
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.'

A reading from Romans:

25 Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia.**

**Here I am, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word.**

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 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. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



Hymn of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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, fulfill your promise 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: Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths in the Greenville and Mercer County communities. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, teachers and leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Give us new eyes and new hearts to see the beauty of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. We pray for our president, Donald; our president-elect, Tom; and all of our elected local municipal and school leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. We pray for those families who are now food insecure because of the Covid-19 crisis. Help them find their daily bread. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. Bring blessings on our community, state, nation and world as peoples everywhere cry out during the COVID pandemic. Heal those who are sick, keep others safe, calm our anxiety and fears. We pray for those caregivers you have given the gift of healing, especially those working in hospitals and long-term care facilities. We pray for Pastor Julia and the St. Paul's community. Keep them safe and give them what they need. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. We pray for those saints who have gone before us, especially Bob. 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.**

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.**

*Announcements*

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 # 6 from Suite on  
*Nun Komm den Heiden Heiland*

(Keene)

## **Serving Today**

**Presiding Ministers . . . .** Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon  
Ron Tomko, Holy Trinity, Hermitage  
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville  
**Organist . . . . .** Maidene Hackett

## **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

## **This Week at Holy Trinity**

### **Sunday, December 20, 2020, *Fourth Sunday of Advent***

9:30 a.m. Virtual Liturgy of the Word  
*NO* Sunday Church School/Confirmation  
**Hanging of the Greens**  
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

### **Monday, December 21, 2020**

*Messenger articles due today*

### **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

### **Thursday, December 24, 2020, *Christmas Eve***

**7:00 p.m. Virtual Liturgy of Holy Communion**

### **Friday, December 25, 2020, *Christmas Day***

10:45 a.m. **Virtual Liturgy of Holy Communion**

### **Saturday, December 26, 2020**

*NO Liturgy*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Sunday, December 27, 2020, *St. John, Apostle***

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion  
*NO* Sunday Church School/Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

### **Tuesday, December 29, 2020**

7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

### **Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

*NO Weekday Communion*

### **Thursday, December 31, 2020**

*NO Weekday Communion*

### **Friday, January 1, 2021, *New Year's Day***

*Office Closed*

### **Saturday, January 2, 2021**

*No Liturgy*

## Noted This Week

**New Members:** Pastor Brenda will be talking with a number of our frequent visitors about whether they would like to become members of Holy Trinity. If you have an interest in membership, please speak with Pastor Brenda.

**A Blue Christmas service has been recorded and posted on Holy Trinity's website. You will also be able to access the link on Holy Trinity's Facebook page.**

**The Blue Christmas service is for** all who may feel out-of-step with everyone else at this time of year. Some of us who have experienced a recent loss of a loved one; changing circumstances in relationships, with the economy, or with illness, and these things might make it hard to celebrate Christmas. All are welcome to join in what hopefully will be a time of healing.

**Virtual Christmas Worship: Thursday, December 24** – Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m. Festival Liturgy of the Word; **Friday, December 25** - Christmas Day, 10:45 a.m. Festival Liturgy of the Word.

There is no Sunday Church School or Confirmation on December 20 or 27.

*Please note there will be NO Liturgy on Saturday, December 26, 2020 or Saturday, January 2, 2021.*

## Good Shepherd December Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **December is boxed or canned meals**. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

## Stewardship

***“The Generosity Project: Growing in God’s Grace Generation to Generation”*** is the theme of our 2020/2021 financial stewardship emphasis.

***If you have not done so yet, please return your Commitment Card in the next couple of weeks.***

Extra Commitment Cards are available. If you need one please contact the church office.





## **Please Pray For**

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

### **Health and Healing:**

Ronald (friend of Linda Bateman)	Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)
Carl (nephew of Betty K. Junk)	William J. (father of Catherine Mott)
Bob (husband of Jull Murrin)	Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)
Bill and Katie (friends of Barbara Swartz)	Lori
Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin)	Carl
Betty K.	Paul
Rick (friend of Betty K. Junk)	Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)
Ed and Cathy	Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)
Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)
Janet (friend of Gloria Spargo)	Jim

### **Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:**

Bob Dorfeld  
Jayna Spigelmeyer

### **In Military Service**

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)

Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)

Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)

CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)

Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)

Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)