

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today we are pleased to welcome as our preacher,  
The **Reverend Kevin Strickland**, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod.

**Welcome, Bishop!**

**NEW MEMBERS** - Today at the 11:15 am service we are pleased to receive the following new members: Susan Mariotti and Evelyn Henderson along with children, Violet and Julius. We welcome these new members and pray God's blessings upon their ministry in our midst.

**FACEBOOK LIVE – THIS MORNING'S** Facebook Live broadcast will not take place at the 8:15 service, as usual. Instead, the 11:15 am service will be broadcast so that all may enjoy the children's Christmas Pageant. Should you miss the live broadcast, the recorded service can then be viewed at any time and at your convenience.

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRITS - TODAY** at the home of Dave & Susan Kroft; 716 Rocky Shadows Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

**POINSETTIAS** - A sign-up sheet to purchase Christmas poinsettias, for the sanctuary, chapel, and narthex, is on the counter in the Sun Porch Area. Deadline is **TODAY**. This year, they are \$8.00 each. Envelopes are provided on the counter for your use. Thank you for your support in beautifying the worship areas during Christmas!

**ST NICHOLAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT** - Our annual St. Nicholas Party at Alpine Crest Elementary will take place **Thursday, December 15th** from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Here is how you can help brighten a child's life at Christmas: Starting November 20th select a ticket from the tree in the narthex. **Cut and take your portion of the ticket while writing your name and phone number on the part still attached to the tree.** Next, shop for the requested gifts on the back of your ticket, and return them to the CHAPEL by Wednesday, December 7th. In order to maintain fairness, we ask that you purchase 5 gifts per child, no more and no less. If you rather not do the shopping, you can also make a monetary donation

and volunteers will do the shopping and wrapping for you! Just note that your donation is for St. Nicholas party. We will have a Wrapping Party on Saturday, December 10th from 10:00am – noon. If you have a Thrivent Action Team yet to be used in 2022 and you are willing to use it for St. Nicholas, please let Pastor Stan know. You can also help with the party itself as we need folks to stage the party, help with the party itself and clean-up following. Let's share the spirit of Christmas in a year when Christmas is so very much needed!

**FLOWERS for the Altar** – The opportunity to purchase a seasonal flower arrangement/plant to beautify the sanctuary will be available for 2023. The **TWO** arrangements/plants will be replaced **monthly**. There is a sign-up sheet in narthex. Cost is \$30 per arrangement/plant.; with 2 spaces per month.

**SACK SUPPER SAINTS** will resume **January 4<sup>th</sup>**! They're breaking until after the holidays.

**QUILTERS** – will resume in January. They are taking December off.

**ATTENDANCE**- Let us know you are here! Please, remember to complete your **attendance slip** each week. We only need your name, **no address**, unless you are visiting.

**VENMO**– Our username is **@trinitylutheran**. Thank you to our members who use this service. We hope it is useful to your family.



**Trinity Lutheran Church  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022  
9:30 AM**

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus 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 church 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 Christ's advent among us.

**PRELUDE**

**We Believe**

**ccli: 6367165**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor: We've heard it said,**

**People: That all good things come to those who wait.**

**Indeed, Advent is a time of waiting.**

**Advent is a time of patience.**

But we are not a patient people.

**We want things now.**

And we want them our way.

**And we want them in our time.**

And that includes the joys of Christmas.

**Let us therefore, seek God's forgiveness for our impatience.**

*(kneel or sit)*

Lord, Forgive us for wanting things now, our way, and in our time.

**Forgive us Lord, for rushing things.**

Rushing to parties as we pass by the church.

**Rushing home as we pass by the homeless.**

Rushing to the store as we pass by the hungry.

**Rushing to the bank as we pass by the needy.**

Rush into our lives, O Lord, and save us from ourselves.

**Rush into our lives, O Lord, and grant us forgiveness.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins.

**Thank you, God, for rushing into our lives.**

Thank you, God, for rushing into our very hearts.

**Fill us with patience that our Christmas joy might be complete.**

Then we will know that all good things come to those who wait!

**All good things come to those who wait upon the Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: We light three candles

**People: And we pray for joy.**

We light three candles.

**And we look to the day when all prisoners will be free, when all the sick will be healed, and when all the sad will be glad.**

We rejoice with the angels as they prepare to welcome you into the world.

**You bring joy to the world, O Lord.**

We celebrate the good news that you are coming to wipe every tear from our eyes.

**You bring joy to the world, O Lord.**

We are happy to say that we believe in you.

**Come, O Lord, to lighten our hearts and brighten our days.**

**Amen.**



## **GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 11:2-11**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children’s Sermon**

## **SERMON**

**Bishop Kevin Strickland**

## **HYMN OTD**

**Christ Be Our Light v 1, 2, 5**

**ELW 715**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the Church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

Lord God, you sent your Son in the fullness of time to be the Light of the World, the light no darkness can overcome. Give us patience to await your gracious will trusting that at the right time you will also answer our prayers in times of anxiousness and trouble.

Lord of Love, you do not cast off those who doubt or who cannot believe your promises, but in your patient biding, you continue to prod and encourage them along their way. Support them with your love and give them new ears to hear and eyes to see what you are doing in the world.

Lord of Hope, thank you for every messenger of yours who stands unbowed against sin and wrong doing and who stands up for truth, honesty and justice. Especially this day do we give you thanks for John the Baptist. May his example inspire us to the same faithfulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lord of the Nation, We pray for your Church all around the world that your people everywhere might celebrate the promise fulfilled – the birth of your Son and do so with joy, generous charity and a forceful proclamation of the Word made flesh. Guide the leaders of the world, especially the leaders of our own nation as they go about making difficult decisions. And in the name of the Prince of Peace bring healing to peoples in turmoil everywhere. Especially do we pray for the people of Ukraine and Iran.

Lord of Healing, You restore the blind, the deaf, the lame, the speechless, and you give to the dead abundant life. Make us whole and restore to health all those in need of your healing touch especially... Beth Painter, The family of Jasmine Pace, The family of Carolyn Emerson (Lynn Kohl), Paula June & Karen Ward (Muncy family), Shirley Wooten & Leon Stonecipher (Joyce Davis), Faith Buck & Branda Nun (Buck family), John Ray, Claudia Bargiel, Kristen Jackson Espinoza (Steve Jackson), Ed Kreider (Diana Kreider), Sheila Hilley, Alexander (Becca Krause), Marlene Hiltunen, Candi McPherson, Art Minninger, Paul Giesel (David Giesel), Margaret Jones, Susan Bolinger (Ginny Minninger), Shawn & Mark (Marlene Hiltunen), Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel), Scott Baily (Fran Balsis), Alice Barnett, Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart), Bill Balsis, Gene & Laura Cline... and those we name before you now, both aloud and in our hearts...

**Pastor:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **THE 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love. **Thanks be to God.**

**Communion Hymn**

**Messiah**

**ccli: 1454269**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on the Prince of Peace, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory. And may the blessing of God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN**    **Come Thou Long-expected Jesus**    ccli 31999

**DISMISSAL** - Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Go in peace, Christ is with you.    **Thanks be to God!**