# Sunday, December 7, 2025 The Second Sunday of Advent Trinity Lutheran Church

10:30am: Downtown 401 Fifth Street N







Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the maker of heaven and earth whose salvation is sure. Amen.

Let us confess our inability and our unwillingness to love as we are loved.

We take time to reflect on our actions and choices.

God for whom we long,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. We are quick to reach for weapons and words of hate. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in peace with our neighbors. Increase our trust in your timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in hope and live in love.

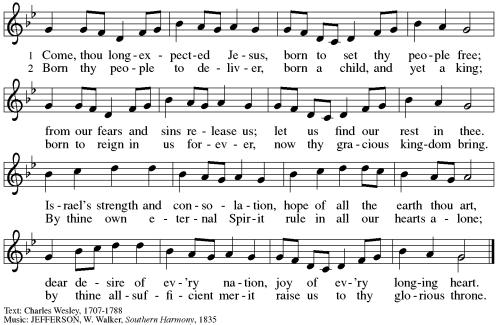
God judges with righteousness and not as we deserve You are freed and forgiven, and ready to welcome your Savior.

Amen.





# GATHERING HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



### **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.

## ५ LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Today is the second Sunday in the season of Advent, a season in which we prepare for the coming of God into our lives and into our world. Each week, we add the light of a candle to remind us of one of the gifts God brings to the world. Last week, we lit the candle of hope; we light it again to show how our hope continues.

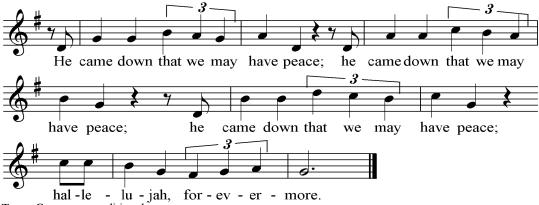
#### The first candle is lit.

The second candle is the candle of peace. Today, we will hear the prophet Isaiah's vision of a world where even wild animals live in peace. Psalm 72 celebrates a government that creates peace and prosperity for vulnerable people. In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul urges people of different ethnic backgrounds to live and worship together in peace. But in the gospel of Matthew, John the Baptizer says that we must make changes in our own lives in order to have peace with others. We light the second candle as a sign of our commitment to create peace within ourselves, our family, our community, and throughout the world.

The second candle is lit.



# **HYMN OF PRAISE**



Text: Cameroon traditional
Tune: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 



Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

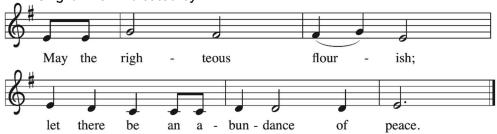
Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.



# j.

### **PSALM:** Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

The choir will sing the refrain once as introduction and the congregation will repeat it; then all will sing it when indicated by "R"



- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup>Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. R
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup>Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**
- <sup>18</sup> Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- <sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. **R**



### **SECOND READING:** Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name;" <sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people;" <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him;" <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Please stand and sing:



Choir: Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4, 6) Congregation repeats "Alleluia"

### GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The good news of God's love according to Matthew.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume 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>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to You, O Christ.

# 👆 SERMON

A brief period for silent meditation will follow at the conclusion of the sermon.





### HYMN OF THE DAY Comfort, Comfort Now My People



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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. Amen.

# RAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and all of creation.

After each petition:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

We commend our prayers to you, O God, through our Lord Emmanuel. **Amen.** 



## THE SHARING OF PEACE

Instead of putting a donation in the offering plate during the next hymn, you can use the QR code to make a contribution on the church website; or you can mail an offering to the church.



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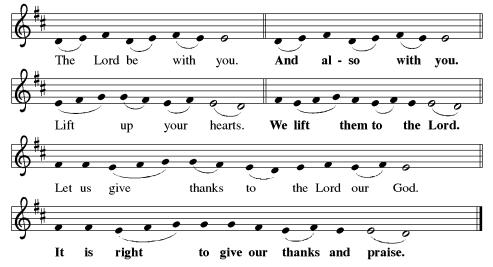


# OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, satisfy us through this meal, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

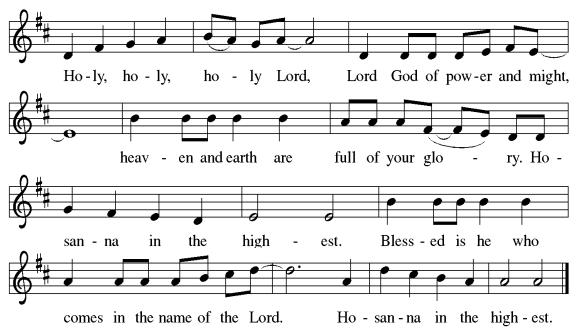
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

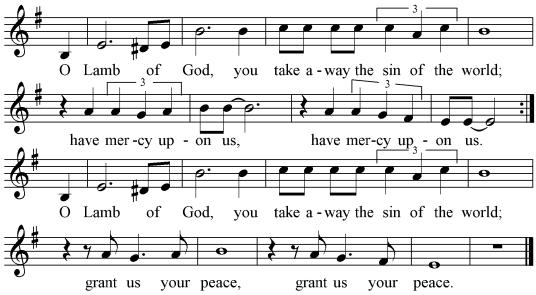
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, receive what God has promised.

God is with us!

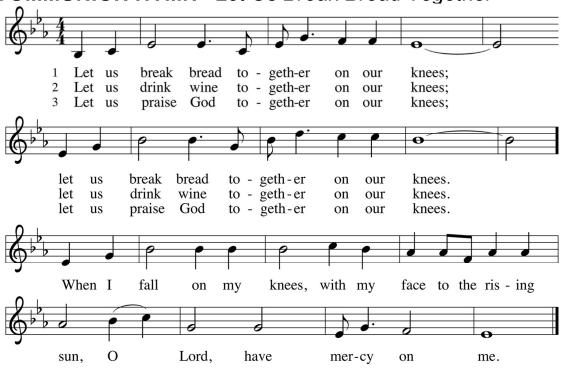






## **COMMUNION HYMN** Let Us Break Bread Together

**ELW 471** 



Text: African American spiritual Music: Break Bread Together, African American spiritual

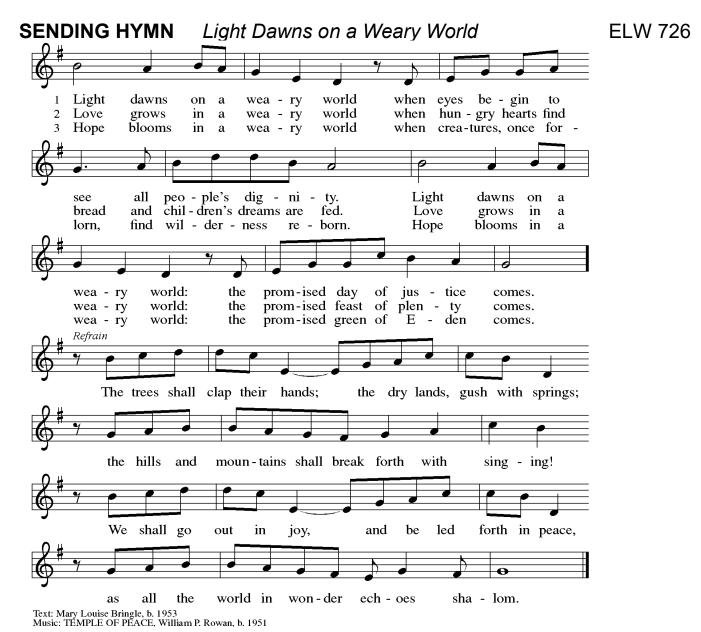
## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, to welcome the stranger, and to bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.** 



# • BLESSING

May God who comes to us, Father, ⊕ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.** 



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Watching and waiting.

Thanks be to God. We will!



[Recording ends]



After the service, please stay for a time of refreshments and conversation



#### **Thank you to those serving this month:** (M) = Meadowlawn Campus (D) = Downtown Campus

Service		Lectors	Communion Assistants	Altar Flower Sponsors
12/07	10:30 (D)	Marty Snapp	Lynne Tallon, Barb Macomb	Carla Sajda – In memory of John Sajda
12/14	10:30 (D)	Terri Craig	Margarita Rodriguez, Phil Rearick	To the glory of God from the people of Hope
12/21	10:30 (M)	Lou Carter	Betty Herzhauser, Violet Prepost	(open for sponsorship)
12/24	5:00p (D)	Phil Rearick	Paul Frakes, Ruth Kinsey	Poinsettias – Multiple Sponsors
	7:00p (M)	Terri Craig	Betty Herzhauser,	(see list inside 12/24 bulletin)
12/28	10:30 (M)	Gary Bartelt	Linda Gascon,	(open for sponsorship)

#### **Birthdays this week:**

12/11 - Donna Ehrlich

12/12 - Janet Crim

12/12 - Ron Oughton

### **Anniversaries this week:**

12/09 - Lynne & Jim Tallon

## This Week's Calendar of Events:

DT = Downtown (401 5<sup>th</sup> St N)

ML = Meadowlawn (1801 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave N)

#### Today (12/07)

(No scheduled events)

### Monday (12/08)

(No scheduled events)

#### Tuesday (12/09)

12:30pm - Women's Luncheon (Cheddars on Park Blvd)

#### Wednesday (12/10)

11:30am - Community Meal (DT 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

6:00pm - Bible Study (CommUNITY Rm)

#### Thursday (12/11)

6:00pm - Grace Family Bible Study (CommUNITY Rm)

6:30pm - Vocal Choir Practice (ML Sanctuary)

#### Friday (12/12)

9:30am - TLC Pantry (DT 1st Floor)

9:30am - Dolores Food Pantry (CommUNITY Rm)

#### **Saturday (12/13)**

9:00am - Hope Chest (Thrift Store ML)

10:00am - Congregation Breakfast (Spring Garden)

## Further Info & Items of Interest:

- Women's Luncheon: on 12/09/25 at 12:30 join us at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen (4101 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park) as we close out the year and celebrate the holiday season.
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: We continue our new series of study/discussion on the Gospel of Matthew. Join us at 6pm in the CommUNITY Room.
- Congregation Breakfast: on Saturday, 12/13 at Spring Garden Family Restaurant, 1018 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave N.
- AIDS Partnership Dinner: will be hosted at our downtown facility on Wednesday 12/17.
- Christmas Eve Worship: There will be TWO worship services on Christmas Eve:
   5pm – Downtown, 7pm – Meadowlawn
- Sponsor Poinsettias: Both sanctuaries will be decorated with holiday poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services. The poinsettias have already been ordered and are available for sponsorship! Sponsor a poinsettia for \$8 and take it home (or donate it for others) after the 12/24 service.
- Choir Practice: We continue to have our mid-week choir practice on Thursday evenings in December.
   But please note, there will be NO choir practice on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.



## **Prayer List:**

### For those ministering in our congregations:

Pastor Paul Gibson
Deacon Lynne Tallon
Music Director Ross Kimura
Music Director Brenden Hall

#### For those suffering from cancer:

Jim Tallon

Whitney & Greg Corrigan

Rick Jackson
Frank Durilla
Rev. Ernest Knoche
Ron Oughton
Barbara

#### For those homebound:

Lorna Holder Shirley Taylor Betty Aker Marion Cheslock Judy Milanese Petra Young Note: These prayer requests are active for 3 months unless a shorter timeframe is requested.

### For those needing strength & healing:

Paula Smith Leonard

Vickie Clark Robert & Brenda Meredith

Luke Mendenhall
Guy Smith
Joyce Dare
Cecil Miles
Linda Miles
Sandra Marzan

Brian Schutzbach
Shakira & family
Scott family
Joan Barnes
Bob Stross
Frances Guido

### For those grieving the loss of a loved one:

Family & friends of Lenny Jerritt Family & friends of Linda Nelson Family & friends of Scheryl Hill Family & Friends of Pollyann Knox Family & Friends of Terri Jones

Welcome, visitors! Please tell us something about yourself.

Fill out the form below or scan the provided QR Code to contact us digitally.



☐ Office's Monthly Newsletter, etc.

Today's Date: 12/07/25

	Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests:
Name and Address	
Email	
Phone	
Home church, city, and state	
	Digital Contact Card:
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