

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

December 3, 2023

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENTY WREATH

Joyce Maul

HYMN Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

PRELUDE Dominus Dabit...

Anon. Arr. Wendy Pixner

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

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

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

SERMON **"Better Days are Coming"**

HYMN **Hark, the Glad Sound!**

#35

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

+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 Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

A Time for Hope, A Time for Joy...
Dona Besig and Nancy Price

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.
- 2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today (12/3)

Lector: *Ron Mathewson* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Usher: *Ellen Crane* **Altar Guild:** *Joan Cosgrove*
Communion Assistant: *Eugene Randazzo & Joan Cosgrove*
CPIC: *Eugene Randazzo* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Volunteer*

Serving Next Week (12/10)

Lector: *Joyce Maul* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Usher: *Ellen Crane* **Altar Guild:** *Joan Cosgrove*
Communion Assistant: *Eugene Randazzo & Joan Cosgrove*
CPIC: *Eugene Randazzo* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Volunteer*

Today is the first Sunday in our season of Advent. Participating in the wreath ceremony is Joyce Maul.

Special thanks to those who helped to decorate the sanctuary last week. Everything looks wonderful.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make our Christmas Bazaar a huge success!

Looking ahead to Christmas Eve worship! We will have two candlelight services scheduled for 11:00am and 5:00pm. We hope you can join us.

Christmas gifts for local families. Once again, we are offering Christmas relief to local families in need. Please see the bulletin board in the back of the church for details. Gifts need to be brought to the church unwrapped by December 10. For more information contact Erin Osterhout at: 973-615-1026 or email her at eosterhout@optonline.net.

Do you have ideas for specific building renovations? Please list your ideas on the clipboard at the usher's table (rear of the sanctuary). Your input is greatly needed and appreciated.

Our Annual Congregation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 3 right after the worship service. Please make an effort to attend this brief, yet important meeting.

Were you absent from worship on 10/15 (Generosity Sunday)? Please complete a financial pledge card (located on the usher's table), place your card in an envelope, seal it, and write on the envelope "2024 Pledge". Thank you for your anticipated support!

Today we welcome Jennifer Foose as our guest musician. Thank you for sharing your gift of music with us.

WELCA - We will be having our December meeting on December 10, after the service, in the Blue Room. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

REHEARSALS - All Sunday School students are needed for our remaining rehearsals in December. We are rehearsing at 10:00 AM each Sunday in the sanctuary.

DRESS REHEARSAL - Dress rehearsal for this year's Children's Program will be held on Saturday, December 16, from 10:00 to 12 noon in the sanctuary. If you can't make this very important rehearsal, please contact Ruth Ann (ragreiner@verizon.net).

DECEMBER 17 - Parents, please bring a dessert to share for fellowship after the service on December 17 to celebrate our Christmas program. Thank you for all your help with our Sunday School's programs.

Want to have your announcement appear in this bulletin? Please email your blurb to the church office no later than Tuesday at 10:00am for the upcoming Sunday announcement. Email is: htl.church@gmail.com

Lunch & Learn Bible Adult Bible has taken a short winter recess. We will reconvene on January 3. The group meets in the choir room on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from noon to 1:00pm. Bring a bag much and a Bible! There is a ZOOM link for those desiring to participate online. For more information, see Pastor Jack.

RISE UP is collecting toiletries to aid our locals. Did you know that food stamps do not cover basic toiletry items like soap and shampoo? Please donate items in the special bin located in our church vestibule. For more information, contact Angela Bloshuk at 973-476-0101 or email her at: riseupangela@gmail.com

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the "donate" button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

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908-887-1161

Admin. Assistant: Donna MacQuesten
htl.church@gmail.com

Council President: Ms. Joan Cosgrove
kikkired@verizon.net

2023 HTLC CHURCH OFFICERS

President	Joan Cosgrove, 973-691-1705 kikkired@verizon.net
Vice President	Lisa Bischer, 973-766-2417 lrbischer@verizon.net
Treasurer	Sig Samuelsen, 973-586-8454 ssamuelsen@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Ellen Crane, 973-461-3002 epc330@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	Carol Schutz, 973-625-4556 cgs915@outlook.com

2023 HTLC TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Worship & Music	Joan Cosgrove, 973-691-1705 kikkired@verizon.net
Christian Education	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 eosterhout@optonline.net
Membership	Pastor Jack, 908-887-1161 jackspartan79@gmail.com
Giving	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Community Relief	Ellen Crane, 973-461-3002 epc330@verizon.net
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Property	George Leonard, 201-341-7531 geojleo@yahoo.com
Marketing	Megan Hatem, 973-580-2710 meganehatem@aol.com Kjell Stefani, 973-668-5820 steponesigns@gmail.com
Finance	Bob Klein, 973-902-4596 Bob.Klein@cit.com...

Four-Part Sermon Series:
“The Second Coming of Christ”



Jesus indicated that he will come back into the world to usher in the “end of the age”. Join Pastor Jack in this informative and inspirational preaching series as PJ unpacks the Biblical prophecies and promises for Christians today!

Part 1	11/12	“Ready...or Not?”
Part 2	11/19	“Don’t Just Stand There”
Part 3	11/26	“Judgment Day”
Part 4	12/3	“Better Days Are Coming”

Order Poinsettias for Christmas

Help decorate our Church for Christmas Eve!

The cost for each plant is \$10.00
Please submit all orders by Dec. 10th



*Make a gift of a Poinsettia in **memory** of,
in **honor** of, or in **celebration** of.*

Your Name _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____



of Plants Ordered _____

Check/Cash Enclosed \$ _____

*Please return this form with the your check or cash to the
Church Office or place in the offering plate.*

*All gifts will be acknowledged in an insert in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Plants
may be picked up after either service.*