

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

November 27, 2022

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

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENTY WREATH *Ruth Ann and Glenn Greiner*

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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *soloist: Chris Buechler*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C: **Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: God of new beginnings,
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.**

P: People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✝ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 The advent of our God
 shall be our theme for prayer;
 come, let us meet him on the road
 and place for him prepare.
- 5 Before the dawning day
 let sin be put to flight;
 no longer let the law hold sway,
 but walk in freedom's light.
- 6 All glory to the Son,
 who comes to set us free,
 with Father, Spirit, ever one
 through all eternity.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
 communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:** **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful
 protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and
 enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and
 reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING**Romans 13:11-14**

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

SERMON “What are You Waiting For?”

HYMN**Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

- 1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
 the watchmen on the heights are crying;
 awake, Jerusalem, at last.
 Midnight hears the welcome voices,
 and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
 "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
 The bridegroom comes! Awake;
 your lamps with gladness take!"
 Alleluia!
 Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord,
 whose light has stirred the waiting guard.
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
 and in her heart new joy is springing.
 She wakes, she rises from her gloom,
 for her Lord comes down all-glorious,
 the strong in grace, in truth victorious.
 Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 Oh, come, you Blessed One,
 Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
 Sing hosanna!
 We go until the halls we view
 where you have bid us dine with you.

+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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

#86

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of Blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be Fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P:** Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
- C:** Amen.

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.

+ BENEDICTION

- P:** God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
- C:** Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN Fling Wide the Door

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
 the King of glory comes in state;
 the Lord of lords and King of kings,
 the Savior of the world who brings
 his great salvation to the earth.
 So raise a shout of holy mirth
 and praise our God and Lord,
 Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
 our hearts are open wide in trust.
 Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
 upon our sorrows shine your face,
 and let your Holy Spirit guide
 our journey in your grace so wide.
 We praise your holy name,
 from age to age the same!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. Christ is near.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today

Lector: *Marga Conn* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen* **Usher:** *Matt Maitilasso*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove & Ellen Crane*
Altar Guild: *Ruth Leonard* **CPIC:** *Matt Maitilasso*
Counters: *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *George Leonard & Eugene Randazzo*

Serving Next Week (12/4)

Lector: *Volunteer* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Usher: *Ellen Crane & Marga Conn*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove* **Altar Guild:** *Joan Cosgrove*
CPIC: *Ellen Crane* **Counters:** *Joan Cosgrove & Matt Maitilasso*
Offering: *Lisa Bischer & Shannon Leifken*

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

Special thanks to Al Buechler, who is leading our liturgy and preaching today in Pastor Jack's absence.

We are now entering the liturgical season of Advent (four consecutive Sundays prior to Christmas). Special thanks to all who are assisting with our Advent wreath ceremonies each week.

Pastor Jack will be on vacation until November 28. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Fred Becker at 973-366-2821 or email him at : fred3becker@gmail.com

WELCA'S Annual Christmas Bazaar is Saturday December 3rd from 10:00 to 2:00. We are looking for baked goods for our bake room. They can be dropped off on Friday morning. We are not accepting used items for Dolly's room at this time

Want to use our church building for your group or organization? Please submit your request(s) to our Congregation Council in writing or in email form to our President Joan Cosgrove at least one month in advance of intended building usage. Joan's email is: kikkired@verizon.net Groups are required to complete a Building Usage Agreement form and provide proof of liability insurance coverage listing Holy Trinity as "additionally insured".

Did you know that Congregation Council meetings are open to the general public? Non-Council visitors may have voice, but not vote as per our Constitution. Come see what your leaders are up to lately! The meetings are conducted monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the choir room.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again December 7th - in person" or via ZOOM video link from noon – 1:00pm. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Communion Note: Did you know that the communion trays are configured in a certain way? Cups containing grape juice are in the center of the tray, and cups containing wine are near the edges of each serving tray.

Offering envelopes are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take some of the preprinted envelopes from the back and write your name in the space provided.

Lectors (readers on Sunday mornings) are needed and appreciated. Read the assigned Scripture for the day! Sign up sheets are located in the rear of the sanctuary, or ask Pastor Jack for details: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Opportunities to provide humanitarian aid to refugees from the Ukraine and to the hurricane survivors. Send your contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response. You can donate on the web by visiting ELCA.org and then clicking "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" or you can mail checks to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

(Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.)

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.

Collections Update-

Winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will be collected during the month of November.

For more information of these various clothing collections please contact Ellen Crane (973-625-1353).

Please note: Any clothing other than socks, sweaters, flannel shirts and coats should be deposited in our outside clothing bin, located in the rear parking lot.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside our front entrance vestibule. Please do not donate perishable goods, such as milk, eggs, bread, and cheese.

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. 11th



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.*