



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA (510) 522-5220
Anchored in Faith. Serving Our Neighbor. Singing God's Praise.

Mission: To be a caring and diverse community of people who know and share the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022

www.trinityalameda.org
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883
Rev. Craig Minich, Pastor: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program
Rev. Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH. *You are invited to join with us as we seek to be God's loving community for all who enter here. You are received as a friend . . .*

- *just as you are, created by God.*
- *whatever your color, culture and customs, your age, abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.*
- *wherever circumstances find you... in the midst of change or challenge or pain, in need of strength and hope, or in search of spiritual fullness and friendship.*
- *whether you are a new visitor or an old friend, have no church home, have doubts or do not believe, or want to follow Christ and pursue peace and justice in Christ's name.*

You are embraced as an expression of the diversity and beauty of the creation God has given us.

You are welcome here!

The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our youngest brothers and sisters and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

✠ THE SERVICE ✠

CHOIR PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: Joseph Running
©1995 MorningStar Music Publishers

✠ GATHERING ✠

(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)

↓ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

God of Hope, John the Baptist reminds us that choosing your way sometimes leads us into the wilderness. When we cry out for your divine comfort, teach us also to speak tenderly to our neighbors near and far, proclaiming your love to all. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, as we light this second candle, we remember that you call us to courage. When we meet injustice, may we hold firm. When it feels easier to turn away, strengthen us to see you in the face of our neighbor, especially those we may not understand. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, today we remember our siblings in Peru who live their lives in a real, physical wilderness. Give them all continued courage in their journey. May we learn from our neighbors how to see beauty and life in our own wild places. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, as John challenged his followers to open their eyes and hearts to different priorities, grant us the courage to open our own. Help us speak your love into the lives of our neighbors with boldness and compassion. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, thank you for loving us as we are, and for giving us the courage to continue becoming. May we see hope and life in the transformation to which you call us. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope. **Amen.**

(The first and second candles are lit)

↑HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
#249 vs. 1-2

- 1 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*
- 2 *Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

↑GREETING

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING **Isaiah 11:1-10**

- ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The 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.
- ³His 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;
- ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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.
- ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰On 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.**

↓ **Psalm 72:1-7,18-19** (read responsively)

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

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

⁴Whatever 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. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For 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 patriarchs, ⁹and in order 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";

¹⁰and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

¹¹and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹²and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May 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**

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This 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.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His 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

↓HYMN *Comfort Ye My People, and Every Valley Shall Be Exalted*
From *Messiah* by G. F. Handel, 1685-1759
Geoffrey Burnaford, tenor

↑ APOSTLES' CREED page 105

Let us profess our faith in the words of 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(The congregation is encouraged to take the position which is most prayerful to you.)

You may choose to sit or stand as you are comfortable.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges,

lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones, especially *the family of Betsy Maloney, Tim Bangert, Constance & Stephen Mann, Barry Toomajian, Richard Roth, David Johnson, Alan Petersen, Brad Wentz, Vincent Maloney, George Lyon, Sandra Schleske, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Ann Kenyon, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, Craig Anderson, Pastor Craig, Marilyn, Michael Rasmussen, Hilke de Arce, Jackson Bohm, Buddy and Sherri Scott, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Geoff Kline, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Willie Prewitt, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire*. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda, the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes, our Sunday School, and the East Bay Lutheran Youth Program. We give thanks for the fullness of the lives of Richard Domholt and Ginny Ostergren as they celebrate their birthdays this week. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, you are invited to pray the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

A moment is offered for prayers from the congregation

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with

the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

The offering baskets will not be passed through the congregation at this time. Please place your offering in the basket placed on the stand in the middle aisle of the sanctuary.

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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.

↑ PREFACE FOR THE DAY

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:

↑ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, in the highest. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-sanna in the high-est.

↑ JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.

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

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.
Thanks be to God!

↓ DISTRIBUTION

↓ LAMB OF GOD

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and give you peace.
Amen.

↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

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.
Amen.

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ HYMN *All Earth Is Hopeful* #266 vs.1&4

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come*

(Tune: *Consolation*, A. Davison, 1816)

Arr. David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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