

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **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 for reflection and self examination

P 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. **Amen.**

Greeting

P 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.**

Opening Hymn

Refrain

My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, what a morning;

my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **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.**

The Peace

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

First Reading ***Isaiah 11:1-10***

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; but 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.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 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.

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.

...The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

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***

For 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.

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

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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 patriarchs, and 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"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

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.

... The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

(sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel ***Matthew 3:1-12***

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 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.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But 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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 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. Even 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. "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. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time - Lighting of the Hope Candle

Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Choir Anthem

Meditation

Hymn

Hark, the Glad Sound

- 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.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

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

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. 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 at TOL and Augustana. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones *especially* Glenda, Ralph, Evelyn, Bill, Carol, Don, Dorothy and Cynthia.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those impacted by war and violence and we pray for our men and women in the armed forces. We also ask for your mercy and blessing on those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God 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. 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: *(sung)*: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

*{P Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.}*

Communion Song

Please be seated

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

Communion will be as follows: Please come up the aisle, pulpit side first, to receive the body/bread or a blessing, then move to receive the blood/wine/grape juice. Place empty glass in receptacle as you return to your seat.

Communion: *From the Small Catechism of Martin Luther: "that person is well prepared [to receive communion] who believes these words, **given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins**, for the words **for you** simply require a believing heart."*

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A 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.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

Prayers and Announcements

Prayers

Welcome to TOL: We hope this worship brings you joy, peace, hope, and will challenge you for your week ahead!

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the altar following our worship service. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Sue Wloch.

Christmas Poinsettias and Altar Flowers: There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board for Christmas poinsettias! The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is also posted now. If you would like to sign up for 1 or 2 bouquets, please add your name to the chart. Thank you!

Pizza Party: Because of the snowstorm on November 20, our pizza party was postponed. So **following worship today**, everyone is invited to join us for pizza in the Fellowship Hall!

Photo Directory: There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board to have your photo taken for our new directory, and if you'd like, you may also have a Christmas photo taken. "At will" donations will be accepted for this service and you will receive your photos digitally. You can then have them printed with your favorite photo service. There will be opportunities both before and after worship services today. If you have any questions, please see Scott or Jenna Edwards.

Adult Ed: In the current adult education series of classes at TOL led by Charlie Schmidtke, we are looking at who the "Real Jesus" may be. We'll delve into his childhood and young adult life from a variety of sources. We meet at **1 pm**, and there will also be a Zoom option.

Monday, December 5

The Gnostic stories of Jesus' Childhood

Monday, January 16

Was it the Temple or the Mount of Olives

Advent Bible Study: Pastor Fred will lead an Advent Bible Study from 10—11:30 on **Fridays, December 9 and 16** at Augustana Lutheran Church and on Zoom. Each session stands on its own; no prep required. Come and share, learn, and grow. Contact Pastor Fred to be added to his Zoom invite list.

Annual Budget Meeting: Following worship next **Sunday, December 11**, please plan on staying for a brief meeting to vote on our updated constitution, our 2023 budget and the slate of 2023 church council nominees. If you would like a copy of the proposed budget ahead of the meeting, please contact the church office for a copy. Thank you.

Table Talk: Please join us for our monthly (2nd Wednesday of each month) discussion group; our next session will be on **Wednesday, December 14**. Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. A discussion will follow each episode. We meet from 6:30 till 8 pm, and there will also be a Zoom option. (Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for the link.) This discussion group is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

Blue Christmas Service: All are welcome to this service of healing for anyone experiencing grief, depression or loneliness during this time of year. The service will take place at Abiding Savior Lutheran, 1534 Ruie Rd, N Tonawanda, on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 pm.**

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website homepage (www.trinityoldlutheran). If you have a smartphone, you can download the Tithe.ly app. Instructions for both ways of giving through Tithe.ly are on our website's homepage. Please call the office at (716) 836-4868 if you have any questions.

Mission for December: This month our mission is Restoration Society, Inc., which offers holistic, person-centered mental health services in WNY. RSI helps clients in four areas: health, home, purpose and community. Thank you for your donations to this important organization.

Friends of Night People Info: Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to make 100 sandwiches each week! In addition to the sandwich ministry, there is a barrel in the main hallway off the narthex for clothing donations (mostly for men), and we are collecting new socks, small sized hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste; there's a tote in the narthex for these supplies. Thank you, everyone!

Worship on Cable TV: If you are unable to join us for in-person or Zoom worship on Sundays, Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 am. "Church Unleashed" is led by Lutheran Pastors Beigner, Griffiths and Smith.

Book and Puzzle Sale: Stop by the TOL book and puzzle sale in the Resource Library, in the first room off the hallway past the main bulletin board, where you'll find something for readers of all ages! New items are continually being added at a fraction of the usual cost!

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

This week's calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon. Please note that the office is unstaffed on Mondays. For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i>	Sun	12/4	9:30 am 9:30 am 10 am 11 am 12 pm 3:30 pm 7 pm	<i>Directory Photos before and after worship</i> Worship Service at Augustana Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hour Worship Service at TOL Pizza Party Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings
	Mon	12/5	10 am 1 pm 5:45 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Tues	12/6	9 am 7:30 pm	Sandwich Team #5 CoDA
	Wed	12/7	12 noon 5:45 pm	Yoga (via Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Thurs	12/8	9:30 am 5:45 pm	Yoga (in Studio and Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Fri	12/9	10 am	Advent Bible Study at Augustana
	Sat	12/10		
	Sun	12/11	9:30 am 9:30 am 10 am 11 am 12 pm 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hour Worship Service at TOL Congregational Meeting Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings

Announcements: *If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send it to trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net or call 836-4868 by Wednesday morning. Thank you.*

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Frederick Kopp

Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990 Email: pastor_tol@verizon.net

Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com

Today's Worship Assistant: Barb Edwards

Prayer Partner: Sue Wloch

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

