

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

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 holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination

P God of mercy,

C We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **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.

C And also with you.

Opening Hymn (*next page*)

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 *Malachi 3:1-4*

Please be seated

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Luke 1:68-79*

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,**

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹**that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³**the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us**

⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵**in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷**to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Second Reading *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

....*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.

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

(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel ***Luke 3:1-6***

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

....*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time - Lighting of the Peace Candle

Please be seated

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 2

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Choir Anthem ***We Await You***

Meditation

Hymn of the Day *(next page)*

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol
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The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **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 Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among all the baptized.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda, Ralph, Shirley, and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud: *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence, and enrich our seasonal preparations. Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pastor Sohail's South Asian worship community, as we welcome and serve our neighbors in love.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ you established your reign of righteousness and peace, giving us partnership in its manifestation and hope for its fulfillment. Therefore, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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 Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.}*

Hymn before Communion (*sung*)

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: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

Please stand as you are able

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. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **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, † in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (*next page*)

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

Liturgical elements: Sundays & Seasons Augsburg Fortress-License No. 20817

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Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward
Today's Worship Assistant: Diane Schmidtke
Today's Prayer Partner: Don Grabau
Today's Ushers: Lanny and Nancy Repman

Prayers and Announcements

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Don Grabau.

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 (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from John and Gail Lawler in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.

Christmas Poinsettias: There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board for Christmas poinsettias to decorate our altar for Christmas, after which you can take your plant home. Thank you!

Annual Budget Meeting: **Following worship today**, there will be a brief congregational meeting to nominate and elect council members for 2025 and to approve the 2025 budget.

Adult Education: The next two classes are listed below. Classes start at **1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. **Please contact Charlie Schmidtke if you need a Zoom invite.** The focus this year will be biblical pairs and trios.

Monday, December 9 Elizabeth and Zachariah

Monday, December 16 Mary and Joseph

Mid-week Advent Services and Soup Suppers: Everyone is invited to the Advent mid-week soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (6:30 pm):

Wed., Dec. 11 Augustana, 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda

Wed., Dec. 18 St. Martin's, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda

Women's Luncheon Group: We will meet this **Thursday, December 12**, at 12:30 pm at Howling Rooster, 529 Englewood, Buffalo. If you need a ride, or have any questions, please contact Judy Menz at 716-435-6077. All are invited!

Coffee Hour: Please join us after our worship service next **Sunday December 15**, in the Fellowship Hall, for a coffee hour hosted by WWI. All are welcome!

Sermon Discussion/input: Meets on **Wednesday, December 18 at noon**. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are interested in discussing the texts for the next month of sermons.

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at **7 pm on Tuesday, December 24**. Come and join us for this special celebration!

Mission for December: This month our focus will be the National Alliance on Mental Illness – Buffalo and Erie County (NAMI). This is a non-profit organization serving WNY families since 1984. For more details, see the December Tidings or go to www.namibuffalony.org. Thank you for your support.

Friends of Night People: Thank you to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches per week! Besides donations of peanut butter and jelly, you can help the homeless by collecting winter items. They need thermal clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, boots, hand and foot warmers, gloves, hats, hygiene items, lip balm and travel mugs (so guests can take hot cocoa or coffee with them when they leave the facility). Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Book Sale: Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Books and puzzles are available for a fraction of the cost at retail. Greeting cards/Christmas cards are available at no cost!

Devotionals and Calendars: If you would like a “Christ in Our Home” devotional for **January – March 2025**, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office at 716-836-4868 to have one mailed to you. Also available in the narthex are 2025 calendars, courtesy of Roberts & Wedekindt Funeral Home.

We continue to collect for these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Peanut butter and jelly for our Friends of Night People Sandwich Ministry.
- Operation Christmas Child (small toys and school supplies).
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House.
- Dash’s Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled.
- Material and sheets for the LWR Quilters.
- Church supplies, such as Renuzit gels, paper towels, tissues, etc.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Calendars for 2025.

Thank you for your contributions and generosity!

This week’s calendar

<p><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 through 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></p>	Sun	12/8	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Brief Congregational Meeting Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	12/9	10 am 1 pm 5:45 pm 6 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Yoga Sandwich Team #1
	Tues	12/10	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga CoDA
	Wed	12/11	5:45 pm 6 pm	Yoga Mid-week Advent at Augustana
	Thurs	12/12	9:30 am 12:30 pm 5:45 pm	Yoga Women’s Luncheon Group Yoga
	Fri	12/13	10 am	South Asian Lutheran Community
	Sat	12/14		Abiding Faith Christmas Program
	Sun	12/15	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Coffee Hour Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

Announcements: *If you’d like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning.*

TOL’s Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

