



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Peggy Suhr-Barkley, Pastor

David Spielvogel II, Music Director

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

C: Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive by sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

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. Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading ~ Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.” ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm ~ Psalm 90:1-12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

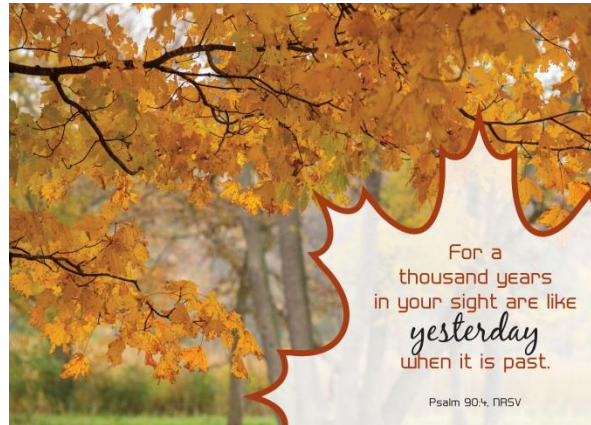
⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**



Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

“Well done,
good and faithful
servant!”

Matthew 25:21, NIV



Hymn of the Day*“Thine the Amen”***ELW 826**

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise thine the everlasting head
 thine the breaking of the bread thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
 thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- 2 Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be thine the vision thine the tree
 all the earth on bended knee gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
 gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest thine the mercy all from thee
 thine the glory yet to be then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
 thine the living thine the loving evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise thine the banquet then the praise
 then the justice of thy ways thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
 then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light thine the river thine the tree
 then the Lamb eternally then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
 thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

Creed ~ The Apostles Creed*God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.**Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

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 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 Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ignite your people with the passion of your love. Give strength and prophetic words to our rostered ministers, especially our bishops, Elizabeth and Kurt. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with our Bishop, Kurt, his assistants Melissa and Peter, and all our synod staff as they continue to transition into their new office home. Guide us all as we transition into a new year. Bring health and healing to this nation. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors, especially Gordon Ray, Randy Gulickson, Gordon Hills, Horst Bandle, Jack Hernstrom, and Vaughn Taylor. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around

Let us pray:

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in Peace to Love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PARISH NOTES

Serving God's People at the Liturgy:

Ministers	The Members of Trinity
Pastor	Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley
Music Director	David Spielvogel, II

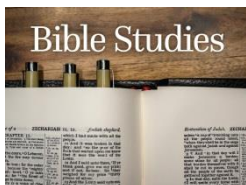
Announcements

A Word about Today's Worship – Thanks to the wonderful world of technology and our tech people, today's worship service is a combination of Pastor Peggy starting us off, this New Liturgical Year, on this First Sunday in Advent with lighting the First Candle – the candle of Hope. Following the lighting of the Advent Wreath the service that continues is a worship service put together by our Synod Assembly Worship Committee that could have been used the weekend of synod assembly as various women pastors in our synod lead the liturgy in an on-going celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. Bishop Kurt Kusserow is the preacher. What a wonderful opportunity we have this morning to worship God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we begin this new liturgical year with the season of Advent! Happy New Year!

Helping those in Need – We have had several requests from people wanting to help those in need in our communities during this time. In the Ellwood City area the local food pantry is housed at **Holy Redeemer Ministerium Social Services**, 300 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117 (724-758-3465). Your monetary donation can either be sent directly to the Food Pantry or sent to the church and the church will forward the money on to the respective Food Pantry. Please in the memo portion of your check write: **Food Pantry**.



Confirmation Continues – Confirmation class continue to take place Virtually on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:30 via Zoom. A BIG word of thanks to our confirmation and their Parents for making this happen. Pastor is still on a bit of a learning curve! There is NO Virtual Sunday School nor Confirmation, Today, November 29th. A blessed Thanksgiving Weekend to all! And to all a good night!



Virtual Bible Study is Wednesday, December 1st from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **In-Person Bible Study** will be held on Thursday, December 1st from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. The study is “Incarnation” by Adam Hamilton. Please call or email the church office to arrange to get the study material.



Bell Ringing - Our congregation has signed up to ring the bells for the Salvation Army on Friday, December 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will be at Giant Eagle and Shop ‘n Save. You can sign up by going to our facebook page or calling the office.

Giving to the Congregations -

If you are interested in contributing to the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church the link can be found below.

http://www.trinitylutheranellwoodcity.com/site/donate.asp?sec_id=180019417



Annual Christmas Organ Concert - NO MASKS REQUIRED! This year Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will be holding our 6th annual Christmas Organ Concert with a twist! **We are going Virtual!** **On Friday, December 11th 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will be broadcasting our Christmas Concert on **Trinity Lutheran's Facebook Page**. Be sure to like and follow this page prior to the concert so you can be notified when it goes

live!

This year Musicians will be performing in their own churches or homes around the United States! We have Organists and Pianists from Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, Florida, and West Virginia each sharing their talents with us during this Christmas Season.

For the past 6 years this Concert has been a tradition at Trinity Lutheran Church. We have received such positive feedback from our concerts that not continuing this tradition was not an option. We have been thanked on several occasions saying, "this is exactly what I needed to feel relaxed, and at the same time excited about this Christmas Season!"

We want to be mindful of the regulations put into effect and want to respect the CDC's guidelines for large gatherings. Taking into consideration the number of attendees in previous years, hosting the concert in the Church this year was not in the best interest for the safety of our guests. This is why we have made the decision to continue with our concert Virtually! (This decision was made even prior to the church council decision to close our building through the end of December!)

We hope that you will be able to join us this Advent Season and continue to uplift spirits through music as we have done in the past. <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEllwood>

This Week at Trinity:

Today, Sunday, November 29 th	9:15-9:45	<u>NO</u> Virtual Confirmation or Sunday School
	8:00	AA Group
Wednesday, December 2 nd	7:00-8:00	Virtual Bible Study
Thursday, December 3 rd	7:00	Women's AA Group
Saturday, December 5 th	7:00	AA Group

**Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to worship with us,
as we proclaim the Good News of Christ!**