

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR

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CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

10 AM



Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

and on

[Facebook](#)

Welcome to worship!
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - from "Psalmody Sacra"
Arr. Gregory Hamilton

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

***Please stand and face the baptismal font
near the entrance of the church.***

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
 alive in the world,
 reviving creation,
 arriving soon.

C. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

C. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN**Hark! The Glad Sound****LBW 35**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

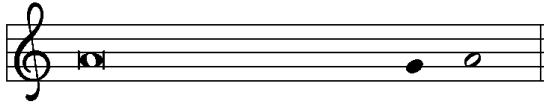
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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.

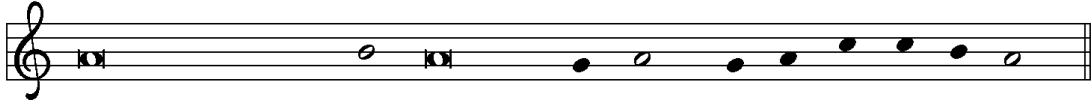
KYRIE



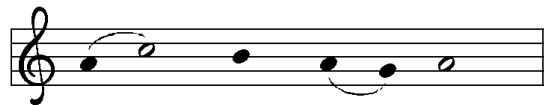
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



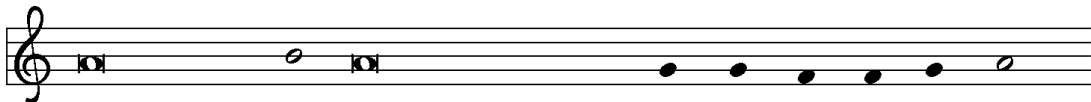
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



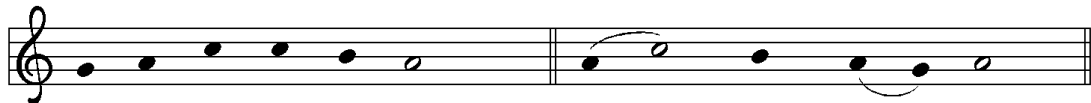
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, WOV 630, Stanzas 1, 2, & 3*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

HYMN: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, WOV 630, Stanzas 1, 2, & 3"
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE THIRD CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH

P. The third candle is called the “Shepherd’s Candle”, and is pink because rose is the liturgical color for joy. On this Sunday, we recall the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that all Christians experience at the midpoint of Advent.

ADVENT BLESSING

P. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. The angels proclaimed the Good News of Jesus’ birth. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

A. A reading from Zephaniah, chapter 3.

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

READ RESPONSIVELY

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

A. A reading from Philippians, chapter 4.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ALL SING)

Michael Krentz



NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, chapter 3.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹ 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."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Fling Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate

LBW 32



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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NICENE CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Julie Buckingham

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.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news and protect those being persecuted for their faith. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who gathers us as one body in Christ, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from the Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve.

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

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who created the nations, teach your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict, especially in Haiti, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Syria, and Sudan.

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

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick, including those we pray for in silence or aloud. (*Pause.*) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you.

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

P. Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

PEACE *Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.*

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.*

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* **WOV 633**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

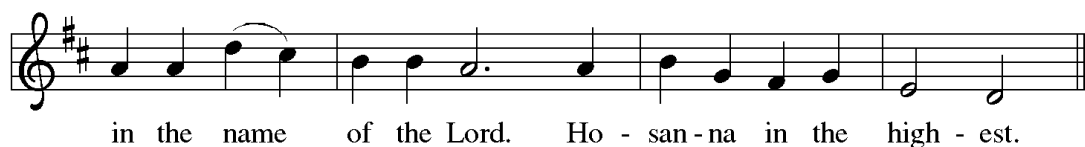
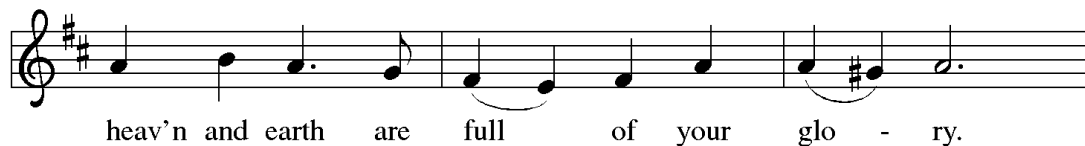
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P. 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 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:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or sit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
The Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
Gave thanks, blessed and 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. With this bread and cup

We remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

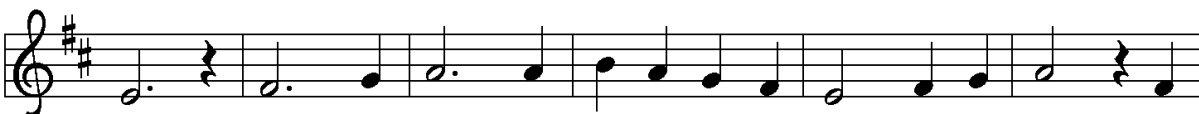
P. God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

***A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.
The center contains purple grape juice.
White wine is in the remainder of the tray.***

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

Nunc Dimittis

LBW, Setting 2



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

P. God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

WOV 626



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
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sleepers, Wake - from Nikolai's "Freudenspiegel," Arr. Alec Wyton

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS & RESOURCES

Available on the round table near the entrance to the church.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*

"Gaudete" is derived from the Latin opening of the introit antiphon.

"Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always."

*The theme of the day is to express the joy of anticipation
at the approach of the Christmas celebration
that will culminate in the birth of Christ.*

*On this day, the rose candle on the Advent Wreath is lit
as a symbol of joy.*



**Pastor Niederer will be away
Thursday, Dec 26th – Wednesday, Jan 1st**

If you have need of a Pastor during that time,
please call

Pastor Susan Nelson-Colaneri
Holy Trinity, Hasbrouck Heights
973-980-2367



Tuesday, Dec. 17th
Via Zoom at 7:30 PM
Connection link will be emailed

Wednesday, Dec. 18th



WORSHIP at NOON

“Restore Our Hope”
Held at
Trinity Lutheran Church, 167 Palisade Ave, Bogota
Masking Optional.
SOUP & SANDWICHES FOLLOWING WORSHIP
Preacher: Pastor Lisa Holliday: Trinity, Bogota
The Last Wed. Advent



1:30 PM
In Grace’s Memorial Room



Thursday, Dec.19th, at Noon
Via Zoom
“Preparing the Way”
Connection Link & Readings will be emailed.



DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 22nd after Mass



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th

11 AM Christmas Day Mass

NOTE: 11 AM time is for Christmas Day only.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th – 10 AM



Grace's Collection Chest is across from the baptismal font.

We will be collecting Non Perishable Food
throughout December.

Collected items will be given to
Christ Church Food Pantry for Distribution.

No glass containers or items near the expiration date, please.

2024 - 2025



Bishop's Challenge

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply,
and fill the earth and replenish it..."

Genesis 1:28

In care of God's creation:

*We invite you to take your bulletin home for meditation
and to remember those on our prayer list. If you choose not to,
please place the bulletin on the table at the back of the church or place it
in the large plastic bin on the floor near the mailboxes after Mass.*

All cardboard and paper are recycled from those locations.

A recycle receptacle for plastic and glass is in the Memorial / Coffee Room

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY

TO

Karen Bartholomew, Guest Organist

Sue Papera, Greeter

Jack Martinez - Crucifer

Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor

Fred Lewis, Liturgist & Reader

Julie Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession

Janet Thalmann and Erika Ilgenfritz, Altar Guild



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); **Carol Weber**; Carol's family: **Doris Baumann**, **Darla Lambson** (leukemia); **Brad Gohmann** (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: **Donald Lazlear** and his family, **Katie and Surella Borowski**; **Rose Davis** (cancer); **Marc & Bella Yaffe** and **Leslyn Cooke**; **Susan Bethke** (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); **Marion Soohoo** (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: **Arlene Rizzo** (cancer) and Arlene's family; **Chris Palmer** (health concerns); **Caleb** (mental health issues); **Jenny L.** (health issues); **Carol Mulvaney** (breast cancer); **Michael Mulvaney** (prostate cancer); **Edward Foley** (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: **Jason and Paul Thalmann**; **Beverly Philip** (severe dementia), **Kathy O'Brien**, **Bert Maltz** (health concerns), **Michele Rusciano**; **Al & Mark Crovatto**; **Anita & Harold Bontekoe** (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: **Susan Beever**; **Dominick Capalba** (6 year old with brain cancer); **Patty Fitzgerald** (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: **Jessica and Casey O'Neil** (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); **Marcia & Chuck Hendron** (Kay's parents – memory care); **John Steffen** (Lorli's brother with health concerns); **Tammy** (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); **Judy Letwink** (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); **James Ilgenfritz** (Erika's son); **Peter Schelbli** (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: **Kevin** (cancer), **Doris Feirer**, **Arouss Darpinian** (health concerns); **Chris Niederer** (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); **Nancy Barbee** (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis **Keohane** (Catherine's uncle); **Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly** (health concerns); **Donna Maxwell**, **James Mingo** (Donna's grandson - health concerns); **Hana Kim** (health concerns); **Mary Sue Kaplow** (health concerns); (baby) **Hannah Muñiz** (a hospice patient where Jack works); **Chris** (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & **Bob Wheeler**; (**Paul Whelan**, **Evan Gershkovich**, and **Alsu Kurmasheva** (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



Upcoming Commemorations

Las Posadas (LLC)

Monday, December 16, 2024

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Friday, December 20, 2024

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

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