

WELCOME!
Trinity Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

- * = Please stand if able
- = Please be seated

- **Prelude – *Pre-recorded by Roxanne Groff***
- **Office of the Acolyte**
- **Ringling of the Bell**
- **Welcome**

- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: This day, Elizabeth and Zechariah welcome their son, John, who will be a prophet to the promised messiah.

C: *(light candle 1)* This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: *(light candle 2)* This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.

C: *(light candle 3)* This is the candle of joy, and it shows us God's healing and wholeness.

- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: *(light candle 4)* This is the candle of peace, and it proclaims Christ's coming reign of justice, when we will make war no more.

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

* **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

* **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song/Hymn of Praise

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LBW 45



**1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

* **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... God of all, you call us into one Body of Christ for the good of the world. Strengthen us through your Word, that we might support and sustain one another in all that you call us to do. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen



• **Scripture Reading**

L: Our scripture reading for this day is from Luke, Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you O' Lord!

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.”

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” ⁶¹ They said to her,

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

“None of your relatives has this name.”

⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing

tablet and wrote, “His name is John.”

And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over

all their neighbors, and all these things

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

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, ⁷⁰ as 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. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And 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

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By 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.” ⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

- **Luke 1:5-13, 57-80**

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ
(Spoken)

Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Saturn

Sermon



Mars

Sermon



Zechariah, Elizabeth and John

Sermon



Sermon



Samuel Anointing David

Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Jesus is here!



2 Corinthians 9:15

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“Would I Know My Savior?”

by

Larry Harter

* **Hymn of the Day**
“The First Noel”
LBW 56
(Verses 1-4 Only)



*** “The First Noel”
LBW 56**

**1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.**

* “The First Noel”
LBW 56

Refrían

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

*** “The First Noel”
LBW 56**

**2 They looked up
and saw a star
shining in the east
beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.**

* “The First Noel”
LBW 56

Refrían

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

*** “The First Noel”
LBW 56**

**4 This star drew near
to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem
it took its rest;
and there it did
both stop and stay
right over the place
where Jesus lay.**

* “The First Noel”
LBW 56

Refrían

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

*** “The First Noel”
LBW 56**

**3 And by the light
of that same star
three wise men came
from country far;
to seek for a king
was their intent,
and to follow the star
wherever it went.**

* “The First Noel”
LBW 56

Refrían

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: 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.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

* **NICENE CREED**

C: 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.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

* **NICENE CREED**

**C: 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

Each petition will end with the words,

A: God of Promise,

The congregation will respond with:

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayer concludes...

P: We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...

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

C: And also with you.

- **OFFERING**



* OFFERING PRAYER



*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C: 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.


* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit  remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** Sending Song**
“Joy to the World”
LBW 39





1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n
and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world
with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

* **DISMISSAL**

P: ... Depart in Christ's Love.

**C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving
all. Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Pre-Recorded By

Roxanne Groff

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.