



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Our Mission:
To make disciples
by Baptizing and
Teaching about Jesus.

Rev. Michael S. Taylor
Pastor

Mrs. Susan L. Taylor
Accompanist

Dale Klobusnik,
Reader

**Ed Podpora,
Chuck Stevens,**
Ushers

Chuck Stevens,
Elder of the Day

Dale Klobusnik,
Elder



The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning “*Rejoice!*” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “*he has cleared away your enemies,*” “*taken away the judgments against you*” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “*rejoice in the Lord always,*” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “*the dead are raised up*” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

Third Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 15, 2024



Welcome to our Guests and Visitors! The congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased and honored to have you worship with us today. If you do not have a regular place of worship—**Welcome Home!** We would love to have you join our fellowship! Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taylor and sign our guest book before you go. Thank you for coming!

Today is the is the Third Sunday of Advent... known as Gaudete Sunday, which is a Latin word that means "rejoice". It's a day to celebrate the joy of anticipation for Christmas and to mark a shift in the tone of Advent from penitential reflection to joyful anticipation.

God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood... invisibly in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27-29). Because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the sacrament, will want to first speak with the pastor before communing.

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *LSB 186*

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, *Hebrews 10:22*

C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Matthew 5:23-24

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*

whose hope is in YAH-| WEH his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

who gives food to the | hungry.

YAHWEH sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Kyrie

LSB 186; Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵YAHWEH has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, YAHWEH, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷YAHWEH your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says YAHWEH.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 191 or inside back cover of hymnal

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Sermon Hymn LSB 333 Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Sermon

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

Please stand.

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Psalm 51:10-12

Please be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Psalm 1:36*
- C** It is meet and right so to do.
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196; Matthew 6:6-13

- 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.**

☩ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My **✠** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✠** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

☐ As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

1 Cor 11:26

☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Rev. 2:20

Pax Domini

LSB 197

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

LSB 197; John 20:19

☩ Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 198; John 1:29*

☩ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Please be seated.

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first, and then distribute them to those who come to receive.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199; Luke 2:39-32

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200; Psalm 107:1

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

Please be seated.

Closing Hymn LSB 370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, this shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98
Tune: English, 16th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

PARISHSCOPE

TODAY Choir Practice... will be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service in the front of the church near the piano. In addition to several songs to be sung during Advent services, we are practicing to sing for the **Preschool Christmas Program on Thursday December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** Please join us!

LWML Cookie Boxes... are ready for pick-up today starting at 11:00 a.m., immediately following the 10:00 a.m. church service for all those who ordered them. Pick up is also available during church office hours on Monday the 16th and Tuesday the 17th. Payment must be made before cookie boxes leave the building; we can freeze them if necessary. The boxes contain 3 dozen assorted cookies (6 of each: **Pizzelles, Snickerdoodles, Peanut Blossoms, Oatmeal Scotties, Fudgy No-Bakes & Snowballs.**) We hope to have a few extra boxes available on a first come, first served basis for a donation of \$25.00 for each box.

Christmas Wrapping Party... Monday Dec. 16th at 9 am to wrap presents for our preschool students.

Ping Pong Fellowship... meets every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center.

Pastor's Evening Bible Study... meets this Tuesday Dec. 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center, then we will be taking a break for the Christmas season. We will resume our study on Tuesday January 7th. Please consider joining us as part of your New Year's Resolution!



Advent Soup Suppers... Wednesday Dec. 18th at 6:30 pm we will be serving our third and final Soup Supper of this Advent seasoning. We will share a light meal leading into the Midweek Advent Communion Service at 7:00 p.m. This week's supper will feature Chicken Noodle soup, Italian bread and butter, and pizzelles. Please come enjoy food and fellowship in preparation for the Christmas season. This service, as well as all Holy Trinity Services, are live streamed on our Facebook

page: facebook.com/HolyTLAlbion and uploaded usually the next day to our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/@holytrinitylutheranchurch9176 Service bulletins are posted on our website:

holytrinitylutheranalbion.org/documents . Please join us in person whenever you are able.

PARISHSCOPE

Preschool Christmas Parties... will be held on Thursday December 19th and Friday December 20th at 11:00 a.m. each day. Santa will be here to distribute the gifts donated by the congregation to the preschoolers. You are invited to come either day to see their joy & share in some light refreshments. Thank you once again for your generosity toward our Preschool classes.

Women's Bible Study... is taking a break for the Christmas seasoning until January 9th. Then we will resume every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Center continuing our study of Ruth and Esther.

Annual Preschool Christmas Program... You are invited to the annual Christmas Program presented on Thurs. Dec. 19th. This year our Choir will begin singing at 6:30 p.m., leading into the Preschool program at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served immediately following in the Family Center. Come meet the families, hear & see what the kids are learning about the birth of Baby Jesus.



LOOKING AHEAD...

Quarterly Voters' Meeting... on Sunday Dec. 22 at 11 am, immediately following the 10 am Service.



Our Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service... will be held Wednesday December 24th at 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends and family to this joyful, intimate service to hear and sing the angel's message to the shepherds:

*"Good News of great joy that will be for all the people:
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the LORD."*

TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: **The Movie "Gladiator II," The Hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," Roman Catholicism & Indulgences, Mary Visits Elizabeth, The Testimony of John the Baptist** and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn or a podcast provider.

REJOICE ALWAYS!?! THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

THE LORD IS NEAR. JESUS CHRIST IS PRESENT FOR US IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

AND THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN SEEN!

PERHAPS.

REJOICE ANYWAY.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

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PRAYER GUIDE

Those needing healing...

Ken Counasse

Linda Evans, John Niemla's
sister

Jane Hutchinson, Alice
Frndak's sister-in-law

Renee & Alyssa Isham

Pastor Blaine Jorg

Polly Klobusnik

Ken Lewis, Tammy

Podpora's Dad

Carolyn Lindenmuth

Emily Marler (daughter of
Pastor & Susan Taylor)

Shelby, Tracy & Patricia
Metzenbacher

Jeff & John Metka

(Susan Taylor's brothers)

John Niemla

Linda (Stevens) Olmstead

Cindy Parobek

Avery Podpora

Ray & Carol Struchen

Russell Struchen

Virginia Taylor (mother of
Pastor Taylor)

Extended Needs...

Evelyn Stevens

Those in the Armed Services...

Jennifer Attridge

Adam Crosby

Julie Evans

Christopher Fromknecht

Christina Guthrie

Violette Hosack

Nate Lawrence

Joe Moore

John Parmarter

Thomas Reiser

Timothy Reiser

Taylor Sisson

Jarrold White

The Advent wreath, both in the church and the home, marks each Sunday in the Advent season.

While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran Church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world.

The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the third Sunday in Advent.

This third Sunday is known as **Gaudete** Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin, and comes from Philippians 4:4:



Lighting this third candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice for the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a fifth candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.

Schedule for this week

Dec. 16 - Dec. 22:

Mon. Dec. 16

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours

9:00 am **Xmas Wrapping Party**

6:00 pm **Fellowship/Ping Pong**

Tuesday Dec. 17

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours

6:00 pm **Pastor's Bible Study**

Wednesday Dec. 18

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours

1:00 pm **ParishScope Deadline**

6:30pm **Advent Soup Supper**

7:00 pm **Communion Service**

Thurs. Dec. 19

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours

11:00 am **Preschool Xmas Party**

6:30 pm **Choir Sings at**

Preschool Xmas Program

Friday Dec. 20

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Office Hours

11:00 am **Preschool Xmas Party**

Saturday Dec. 21

Sunday Dec. 22 ~ **Advent 4**

9:00 am **Bible Study**

10:00 am **Communion Service**

11:00 am **Choir Practice**

Temple Servants for Sun. Dec. 22:

Reader – Debbie Bright

Ushers – John Niemla, Ted Kelly

Elder of the Day – Dale Klobusnik

Elder – Ed Podpora

Altar Guild – Carolyn Counasse

Liturgical Color—Purple

Kitchen Admin. for December –

Debbie Bright 814-746-0132

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Pastor and Susan Taylor (a) 12/16

