

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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www.holytrinity-lc.org

The Sermons are archived on our website.
Check it out if you want to revisit the message.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Ignite! & Bible Classes: 9:15 a.m.



WELCOME TO ADVENT WORSHIP

We gather in hope as we await the coming Messiah.

TO OUR VISITORS: We are delighted that you have joined us tonight.

We pray that the service blesses you and invite you to worship with us again. If you are seeking a church family or would like to know more about Holy Trinity, please contact the Church Office at (270) 843-9595. We are here to serve you. Please be sure to provide us with your address and phone number so that we might extend a special welcome.

CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH:

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome.
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, deacons, readers, acolytes, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

A NURSERY is available for infants up to children starting Kindergarten. Exit the sanctuary to the rear, and follow the hallway to the left, then turn at the first hallway to the right. Parents are welcome to worship with their children, but please use the nursery as needed. If you have any questions regarding the nursery please contact Laurie Seavey at (270) 991-1172.

TO THE MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY: The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing. Please welcome all children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

WORSHIP BAGS for our young worshipers are located in the Narthex.
Please use these as needed during worship.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the Ushers.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE
December 15, 2021

*With expectant and joyous hearts,
let us prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Christ.*

PLEASE REMEMBER: Silence/Turn Off your cell phone

as you come into the Sanctuary to worship the Lord. While you are silencing your phone, we also encourage you to 'check in' on Facebook that you are with us today. Thank you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
(Verses 1-5)

THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

(from 2 Corinthians 13:14 and John 1:1-18)

Liturgist: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

Liturgist: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: He was with God in the beginning.

Liturgist: Through him all things were made.

People: Without him nothing was made that has been made.

Liturgist: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

People: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

Liturgist: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People: We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,

Liturgist: Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

Liturgist: The Law was given through Moses.

All: Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ!

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Liturgist: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Liturgist: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

L.S.B. #332

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
(Verses 7 & 8)

THE COLLECT

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: 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.

All: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS – From and About **OUR ADOPTION AS GOD’S CHOSEN CHILDREN**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from the 43rd chapter of Isaiah.

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

(CONTINUED)

(5)

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you,
peoples in exchange for your life.
⁵ Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.
⁶ I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:3-8

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from the 1st chapter
of Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in
Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us
in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless
before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with
which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

(CONTINUED)

(6)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Please Stand For

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:10-13

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

¹⁰ He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L.S.B. Page 159

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jonah Kaufmann, D.C.E.

THE GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our offerings will go to the various missionaries that we currently support.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we are amazed and astounded that you give.

People: You give the Spirit without limit.

Pastor: You raise the dead and give life.

People: You give eternal life. No one can snatch us out of your hand.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we are amazed and astounded that you give authority.

People: We are not helpless and hopeless. We are not powerless and without a prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we are amazed and astounded that you give authority to become your children.

People: We are born again.

Pastor: Completely new.

People: Adopted into your forever family.

Pastor: Through the gift of Holy Baptism we are your chosen children!

+ Additional Prayers +

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we are amazed and astounded that the past is past. The future is bright. Your Word is sure. Your work is finished. We rest in our adoption.

People: We are your chosen children.

Pastor: Now and forevermore!

People: In Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

All: 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 SERMON HYMN

L.S.B. #725

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

THE SERMON

Pastor Press

The Word Became Flesh: John 1:1-18

"Chosen Children"

Text: John 1:12b

THE BENEDICTION

(Based upon John 20:31)

Pastor: John writes his gospel so that we may believe.

People: **That Jesus is the Christ—**

Pastor: The Son of God.

People: **And that by believing we may have life in his name.**

(CONTINUED)

(10)

Pastor: Go forth in his name—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for in his name you have life.

People: Abundant life.

Pastor: Joyful life.

People: Eternal life.

All: Amen!

THE CLOSING HYMN

L.S.B. #540

"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"
(Verses 1, 5, & 6)

Silent Prayer: "God's own child, I gladly say it, I am baptized into Christ!" Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from the Lutheran Service Book
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+ + OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR DAILY SERVICE + +

For next week: Read John 1:14 and answer these questions:

1. What does John say about the “Word?” What are some of his characteristics?
2. Of all the names John uses for Jesus in his Gospel (for example, “Lamb of God,” “Messiah,” “Son of Man,” “King,” “Resurrection and Life”) why does he first call Jesus the “Word?”
3. John tells us that Jesus, “the Word made flesh,” gives grace and truth. How do these gifts change you?

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PARISH NOTES

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our worship service tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please submit announcements to the Church Office by Wednesdays by e-mailing, calling, or dropping a note in the offering plate on Sundays.

YOUTH WORK

1. **YOUTH BAKE SALE** - Sunday, December 19 at 9:15 a.m. This is to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering and Tornado Relief! With us already at 10% of our goal, we hope to continue raising money so all our students can attend! If you would like to support us, we are accepting donations of baked goods! We hope to see you there!
2. **High School Ablaze** meets on Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Fireside room.
3. **Fuel With Friends** meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in EO-110. Come enjoy some time with your friends before Confirmation Class.
4. **JUNIOR CONFIRMATION CLASS** – We usually meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. We will NOT meet through Advent/Christmas. Youth and their parents are encouraged to attend our midweek services. Contact Pastor Toopes if you have any questions.

SMITHS GROVE OUTREACH

You are invited to attend worship services of Holy Trinity's Smiths Grove site every **Saturday at 5:00 p.m.** at the First Christian Church in Smiths Grove (427 College St, corner of 5th). Bible class is being held **Saturday at 4:00 p.m.**

Our prayer is that this new worship site will enable the Word to have impact on more people in the surrounding community. Your prayers and your support are vital to this outreach ministry.

28 Days of Advent Giving

Holy Trinity will again be collecting food items for needy families and individuals to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Twenty-Eight Days of Giving is an easy way to get your family (and/or yourself) not just thinking about giving during the Advent season, but acting on thankfulness for God's blessings received during the past year.

There are a few changes from last year. We have extended the number of days to 28. The food will be picked up after Christmas and used in the January time frame when not as many donations are received.

The list of items to be provided is available on our Facebook page. The dates of suggested collection are November 28 through December 25.

The boxes can be returned any time after you have completed the collection, but we would like them all to be returned by Sunday, December 26 if at all possible.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

1. **Collection for Miss Tracy**, our kitchen manager. She recently underwent a heart procedure that has resulted in some costly hospital bills. We are collecting donations in the School Office to help offset these expenses. Any help is greatly appreciated. You can make checks out to Tracy Higgins or to HTLS with "Tracy" on the memo line. Thank you so much.
2. **VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** the School is in need of a volunteer to help Miss Tracy in the kitchen on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from around 9am-1pm (hours can be flexible). If you are interested please contact the School Office at 270-843-1001.
3. **THRIVENT GIVING** – if you are a member and have **Action Team Funds** to spend the school has several fund-raising events coming up. (See the newsletter for details). Please contact the School Office (270) 843-1001 if you have any questions on how to proceed to make the funds available.
4. **Christmas Break** – Monday, December 20 through Friday, December 31. Classes resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTERS: The newsletter has been distributed via e-mail and the narthex boxes. If we have an e-mail address for you then hopefully you have already received it.

If you would like to receive newsletters by e-mail please contact the church office at 843-9595. Printed copies are also available in the bottom row of the narthex boxes.

The **DEADLINE** for articles for the January newsletter is Wednesday, December 15.

LWML NEWS

1. For more information about LWML, please contact Claudine Stirn at 270-793-9991.
2. **LADIES WINTER LUNCHEON** - So that we can kick back and relax after a busy December season, we are planning a post-holiday winter luncheon on Tuesday, January 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant (1960 Mel Browning St/Bowling Green).
We will meet in the country store/entry area so we can be seated together. All confirmed ladies of the church are invited. Please feel free to bring along a friend, relative, or neighbor (or two) with you. Be sure to save the date and plan to attend!
3. **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTERS** - We have been busy tying quilt tops again. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (January 18) at 1:00 pm. in EO-202.
We usually quilt for two hours or less. Please park in the lot closest to the church office (where the flag pole is located). For more information about LWR quilting, please contact Jean Nehm at 270-991-8856 or Myrna Neff at 270-773-5192.