

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.



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14

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 8, 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

Please stand for

THE OPENING HYMN

L.S.B. #341

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
(Verses 1-3)

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. #341

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
(Verses 4 & 5)

THE COLLECT

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS – From and About GOD’S GIFT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from the 40th chapter of Isaiah.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(CONTINUED)

(5)

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from the 9th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Please Stand For

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-9, 15

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

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

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 GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, Satan often attacks us with his lies, seductions and half-truths.

People: So we run. And we run some more.

Pastor: And we keep on running.

People: That's why you sent a man named John—John the Baptist.

Pastor: He came as a witness to testify concerning the Light, so that through him we might believe.

People: He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.

Pastor: And this Light fights for us.

People: We thank you for Jesus.

Pastor: Help us believe in him.

People: Help us listen to him.

Pastor: Help us gain great courage from him.

People: For you are calling us to come home.

(CONTINUED)

Pastor: Into the strong, loving and protecting embrace of Jesus.

+ Additional Prayers +

Pastor: Father, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that in Christ you shatter, scatter and overcome all darkness.

People: **We pray in Christ's strong and saving 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. #344

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

THE SERMON

Pastor Toopes

The Word Became Flesh: John 1:1-18

"A Man Named John"

Text: John 1:6-9, 15

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.

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: Thank you, Jesus, for John the Baptist. I will listen to him, stop running, and fall into the arms of Jesus. 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 1:10–13 and answer these questions:

1. This section contrasts those in the world who reject Jesus and those who recognize him for who he is. Why do some reject while others accept?
2. John 1:10 employs the term “world” three times. In spite of being rejected by the world, see John 3:16 to see how God responds. What does this teach you about God’s love?
3. We are *God’s* children. Does this happen naturally or were we adopted?

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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** on Sunday, December 12 at 9:15 a.m. This is to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering! 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.

ONLINE GIVING: Please try our online giving option, the easy, safe and convenient way for you to make your donation. Text HTLCgive to 833-828-5880 or go to the church website (www.holytrinity-lc.org/) and click the "Give" button.

PROJECT M & M
"Mittens and More"

Please keep this project in mind as you do your shopping. Our Mitten Tree is set up in the Narthex.

Your donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, even "long johns" (or anything that will help others keep warm in the winter) will be gathered up and donated to a shelter.

We will collect items until Sunday, December 12. If you have any questions please contact Deanna Boddeker at 270-791-4840 or boddekerang@aol.com

SMITHS GROVE OUTREACH

1. 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.

2. **Planning Committee Meeting** on Monday December 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Smiths Grove site.

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. **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.
2. **Restaurant Fundraiser Event** – Enjoy a meal and help out HTLS at the same time! Contact Alex Trabue at pto@htlc-bg.org for additional information.
Donato's (Cave Mill Rd Location) – Tuesday, December 14
3. **Christmas Break** – Monday, December 20 through Friday, December 31. Classes resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.