

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**December 17,
2023**

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

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Pat Lowther

Third Sunday of Advent



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ SETTING 10 DECEMBER 17TH, 2023



Christ Welcomes All to this House of Worship! Today we begin a new Church Year as gather on this First Sunday in Advent in wait of Christ who came, who comes to us now through Word & Sacrament, and who is coming again. Today we light the “Candle of Joy” on the Advent Wreath reminding us how God comes to those least expected. May the power of the Spirit help us receive Him who brings you good tidings of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life.

We Thank God for guests & visitors and pray you will receive a special blessing today as we go forth together to love and serve others.

- *Children yet to be instructed in Communion are invited to receive a personal blessing at the time of Communion.*
- *Fellowship and refreshments are available in the Library following this morning's service.*

WORSHIP AIDS

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from the ushers.

ACTIVITY BAGS for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return after services. Thanks.

THANK YOU for signing the Friendship Pad as it's passed to you during Communion distribution today.

PREFERENCE to receiving grape juice & gluten-free bread is indicated by raising your index finger to the server.

I WISH CARDS are in your pews; please let us know your ideas to improve our Trinity home.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE /BELL



CHILDREN'S SERVICE BY OUR TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL



Joy to the World



Away in a Manger



Finger Play

Preschool & Kindergarden

Silent Night



Go Tell It on the Mountain



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time,

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. (Isaiah 61:1-3a)



We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

LIGHT THREE CANDLES



- 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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 80

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth,
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength
and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

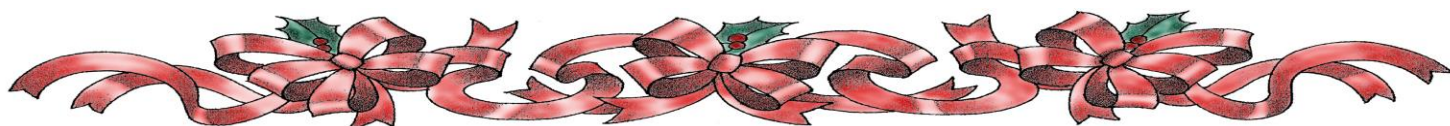
**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to
scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so
strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be
saved.**



WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

The First Reading is in Isaiah Chapter 64, verses 1-9.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Second Reading is in 1 Corinthians Chapter 1, verses 3-9.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Grant Fischer

SONG OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW #715



1	Long - ing	for	light,	we	wait	in	dark - ness.	Long - ing	for
2	Long - ing	for	peace,	our	world	is	trou - bled.	Long - ing	for
3	Long - ing	for	food,	man - y	are	hun - gry.	Long - ing	for	
4	Long - ing	for	shel - ter,	man - y	are	home - less.	Long - ing	for	
5	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	peo - ple,	man - y	the	



truth,	we	turn	to	you.	Make	us	your	own,
hope,	man - y	de -	spair.	Your	word	a -	lone	
wa - ter,	man - y	still	thirst.	Make	us	your	bread,	
warmth,	man - y	are	cold.	Make	us	your	build - ing,	
hearts that	yearn	to	be -	long.	Let	us	be	ser - vants



your	ho - ly	peo - ple,	light	for	the	world	to	see.
has	pow'r	to	save	us.	Make	us	your	liv - ing
bro - ken	for	oth - ers,	shared	un - til	all	are	fed.	
shel - ter - ing	oth - ers,	walls	made	of	liv - ing	stone.		
to	one	an - oth - er,	signs	of	your	king - dom	come.	

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

We Give Thee But Thine Own

ELW 686

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

(THE USHERS BRING UP THE OFFERING)

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 when 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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor.)



PRAYER

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

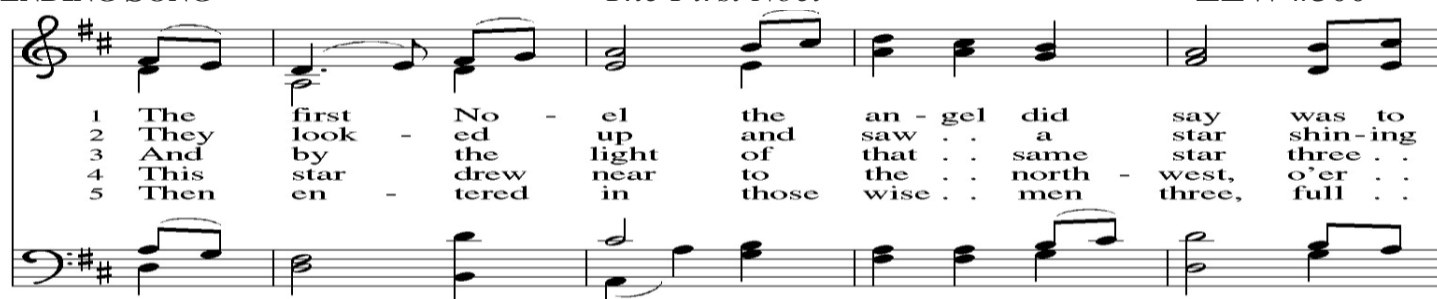
BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The First Noel

ELW #300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek the
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star where - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Thank you to the Trinity Church School, and Pastor Grant for bringing us this inspiring message in word and song.

Thank you to the Directors, Teachers, Parents, and Volunteers who have made this possible.

Christmas Cookies and Treats available in the Library

Join us for Christmas Eve services at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM



Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 am Worship	
Accompanist	Mary Mulry		
Acolyte	Braylon Nelson		
Readers	Darlene Brummund		
Communion Assistants	Larry Baumgardt, Neil Neidt, Dave Vosbeck		
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen		
Greeters	Jeff & Lynette Carlson		
Ushers	Eric & Juli Wahlborg		
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner		



Holiday Bake Sale

The Trinity Women of the ELCA
Invite everyone to attend our 33rd Annual

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 17th
10:00 ~ 11:00
Following the Christmas Program
Held at
Trinity Lutheran Church
217 Brackenridge SW, Sleepy Eye
Proceeds Will Go To People In Need
Supplemental Funds Provided By Thrivent Action Team





Thank you to all who filled a Holiday Box for our Weekend Food families. We filled 45 boxes to make this Blessed Season easier for these families. You are indeed the hands of Jesus!

DECEMBER 17, 2023

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 1:6-8,19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	John 8:12, 9:1-7	Jesus, the light of the world
Tuesday	John 3:19-21	Come into the light
Wednesday	John 16:19-24	Jesus speaks of joy
Thursday	Acts 16:16-34	A jailer is filled with joy
Friday	Isaiah 51:3,11-16	Joy will return to Zion
Saturday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	Always be joyful
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you are our true light. Help us to reflect your light to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to our table. Come into our hearts. Come and give us joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep your whole spirit, body and soul safe until Jesus Christ comes again. The grace of our Lord be with you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to be joyful? Share a time when you were filled with joy.
- Is there a difference between joy and happiness? Explain your answer.
- The apostle Paul tells Christians to "be joyful always." Why can all Christians be joyful? How do we show our joy?

DEVOTIONS:

If you have not already done so, set up a household Advent wreath. In your home devotion times this week, light three candles and use the following liturgy:

Leader: "In the third week of Advent we light three candles – the candles of hope, peace and now joy. We are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who is the joy of our lives."

On each day of the week have a different family member read a Bible passage about joy: Psalm 5:11, Psalm 28:7, Jeremiah 31:11-13, Luke 2:10-11, Acts 16:34, Galatians 5:22, 3 John 1:4. Talk about the verse. Then, form a circle by joining hands around the candles. Say these words:

Leader: "Our household is a circle that is held together by the joy of God."

Response: "Come, Lord Jesus, and give us joy. Amen."

Conclude by singing one or more verses of the carol, "Joy to the World."

SERVICE:

Bake Christmas cookies in special shapes for Advent and Christmas and package to give away to your neighbors. If possible, use icing to write the word "Joy" on the cookies.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Set up a shoebox as an empty manger in a prominent spot in your home (e.g. on the kitchen table). Next to the manger, place a little bundle of "straw" (if you don't have real straw, shredded paper or scraps of yarn will do). Each evening, get together as a family and talk about the good things you've done for others during the day. For every good deed, the person who did the good deed gets to place one "straw" in the manger. On Christmas Eve, place a Baby Jesus figure in the manger, on the soft bed you've made for him with your acts of love and service.

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Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions



Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	99
Weekly Confirmation Attendance:	20
Wednesday Church School Attendance:	35
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$18,489.36
December Giving: (\$22,920. Needed)	\$22,805.99
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$231,757.02
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$286,430.00

We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year.



This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Krista, Trisha, Mark, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Sarah, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more...

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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