



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

December 1, 2024
First Sunday in Advent

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Christmas Eve Services will be offered at 3 p.m. and at 7 p.m. The latter service will include musical offerings from the choir.

Coming Up

December 21 - Trinity's NEW tradition Christmas musical event will be the first offering in our new "Trinity Musical Arts Series." The premiere event begins at 2 p.m. and will feature a performance of the Academy Brass Quintet. This concert marks the beginning of our new ministry that builds upon Trinity's great musical tradition and aims to establish affordable music outreach to the community. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are available in the church office and at the door.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

Introduction to the day

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Hymns

ACS # 905 We are waiting for Jesus

ELW #257 O Come Emmanuel

ELW #248 Look East

ELW #715 Christ be our light

Prayer of the day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

9 As¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm 25: 1-10

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,

for they are from | everlasting. R

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth
and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your
steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸ You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;

therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are
steadfast | love and faithfulness

to those who keep your covenant
and your | testimonies.

Second reading: 1 Thess. 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore

whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.



Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand

up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

While we wait

May God’s grace be known to your hearts and lives this morning and each day...

We had a visitor at the church on Wednesday. I was in the office when I heard someone knocking on the Narthex door ... by the way, I think we need to make

the doorbell button more noticeable ... just saying.

I greeted a middle-aged man who was leaning on his cane.

He asked: "Can your church help me bring my daughter from Turkey?"

I invited the man to step inside so we could discuss things better. He was looking for the congregation to sponsor his daughter.

The family is established in the area – they were working and wanted to help a daughter who had been stranded alone in Turkey by her husband after they fled violence in the Middle East.

I explained that Trinity was already considering sponsoring someone from Africa and I wasn't sure we were in a position to help another person, but I put him in touch with someone we're working with at Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

She ... I assured him ... could better advise him.

In the meantime, the woman is left in a strange land away from her family ... parents are separated from his daughter ... and a family is splintered across the globe. It is a time of uncertainty for them ... a time searching out help ... a time spent waiting ... feeling isolated and afraid.

That is where we find ourselves here on the first Sunday in the Advent season ... in the dark ... waiting ... anticipating what will come into the life of the world.

The season is a dark one ... the nights are the longest of the year ... and

for a couple heading to Bethlehem ... there is uncertainty in the air ... and soon the King will search for their child.

But for now, the couple waits for the birth of their child.

Advent is a time when we ... like the young couple ... can feel anxious as we wait ... hoping for ... and anticipating joy.

This morning, Luke's gospel story jumps us ahead by about 30 years from the nativity.

Jesus and the disciples are at the temple.

Leading up to this passage, Jesus warns the disciples about the temple's destruction. The group wants to know what signs they should look for so that they know when to expect the destruction.

Jesus tells them that they will be persecuted and rejected... he warns them about false prophets ... and that Jerusalem will be destroyed and its people taken away.

After all this, the Son of Man will return and his return will be marked by signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

This nothing that he has said ... or hinted at ... before.

Like childbirth, the coming of the new kingdom is accompanied by pain and fear. And like childbirth, the signs that Jesus lists aren't rare events.

It's hard to think of a time when nations weren't in distress or there

wasn't a sense of foreboding about violence and conflict ... times when people weren't sent from their homes as refugees ... when there wasn't fear of an environmental catastrophe ... or even a time when the seas didn't roar.

That's one of the takeaways this morning ... that the Son of Man will break into the world in a moment that ... while it carries so much fear that people faint ... might seem pretty commonplace.

So, the Jesus' followers need to be vigilant every moment ... because ... well ... you never know.

I love Lutheran theologian Audrey West's words about this in-between time.

"God's time is the now and the not yet. It is a time that should reshape the world's expectations ... and ours."

The other thing we are called to consider is how we ... as followers of Jesus ... spend our time as we wait for the Son of Man's return.

Jesus tells the disciples not to look down in fear or confusion as they wait ... they are to stand up and raise their heads ... not just for themselves ... but for those around them.

Doing so allows them to witness the evils in the world ... the hunger and pain ... the isolation ... the hate ... and the fear. It allows them to break the expectations of a world that sometimes seems to accept those realities.

We do this already ... witnessing injustice and inequity ... and working to bring God's mercy and love to the world.

Jesus' instructions are not to be discouraged ... no matter how daunting the challenge.

God keeps doing a new thing while we live in the now. ... God keeps doing a new thing through us.

Luke's message today is not one of fear, but rather it is one of hope and encouragement.

It's easy to hear the description of the calamities that will happen and be afraid or depressed ... in fact, Jesus tells the disciples that people will faint in fear and foreboding.

Disciples are to be present for others in these times of fear.

As we move through the coming weeks ... we should not only anticipate the light that will come into the world in a manger in a small town. We should consider the sense of anticipation felt by those who journey through a more intimate and personal darkness.

We ... as children of God ... are to model hope ... a faith-filled hope ... for those feeling overwhelmed by the events of the time. We are to anticipate and carry forward the joy of a new creation ... a new way of relating with the world.

And people ... like that man at our doors last week ... are searching for that hope in their own waiting time.

He came to the church looking for a hope in a confusing and anxiety-filled time.

I pray that the church or its agency can provide both comfort and hope for him, his daughter and their family in the coming days.

Such an act would bring light into their world ... a light that shatters their darkness ... a light that we ... as Jesus' followers ... carry within us as we journey ... a light that cannot be dimmed.

AMEN

AMEN

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.

Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

AMEN

EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS...

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our membership records. If you would like a visit from Pastor Chris, please call the church office and leave a message. Pastor Chris would be happy to visit and bring you communion, if you have difficulty attending church services.

