



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle, PA

TLC Renews



We want to be a congregation who continues:
Trusting God
Loving and Connecting with God and one another
Reaching out to all God's children

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 2025 10:15 AM

Rev. Denise Horn – Interim Pastor
Ministers to the World – Congregation of Trinity Lutheran
Mission – *To Share Christ in Word and Deed*
Office Phone – 717-597-9348

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE THIS DAY!

- If you are visiting with us, we are honored by your presence. If you are seeking a church home, please contact the Pastor.
- Holy Communion is celebrated in this morning's worship. All are welcome to the table. Young children should follow the practice of their home congregation.
- The Worship Service will be available on You Tube and the Website after the service.
- Congregational responses are in bold.
- * *Please stand*

Welcome, Announcements, Opening Prayer

GATHERING

Call to Worship *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn* (ELW #242) 4 vs

***Advent Litany**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

***Gathering Hymn**

Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW #250) 3 verses

***Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day:** We pray together: **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Lesson – Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146: 5-10 (Read responsively)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**
who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are**
bowled down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the
wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Advent Wreath

Hymn ELW #243, Stanza #3 – lighting the candle

Prayer

Second Lesson – James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Hallelujah! Words of Life!

A Gospel Acclamation

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Hal-le - lu - jah! Where else would we go? Hal-le - lu - jah! Words of

life! Hal-le - lu - jah! Where else would we go? Hal-le - lu - jah! Words of

life! Hal - le - lu - jah! Words of life!

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*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11**

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

Children’s Message

Sermon

Time of Silence: *Let us respond to God’s Word and God’s love for us by becoming still, closing our eyes and opening our hearts to God’s presence.*

Hymn

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (ELW #251) 3 verses

***Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***Prayers of the Church** - *(Each petition ends with "God of Grace," The Congregation responds "hear our prayer.")*

***Sign of Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** *(If you are joining us on Facebook, please share Christ's peace with one another in the comments.)*

MEAL

You are invited to come forward for the traditional distribution of Communion or if you prefer, take a prepackaged kit available from the Usher and remain seated. The Pastor will give instructions to you prior to communing the Assistants.

***Offertory Prayer**

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

***Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

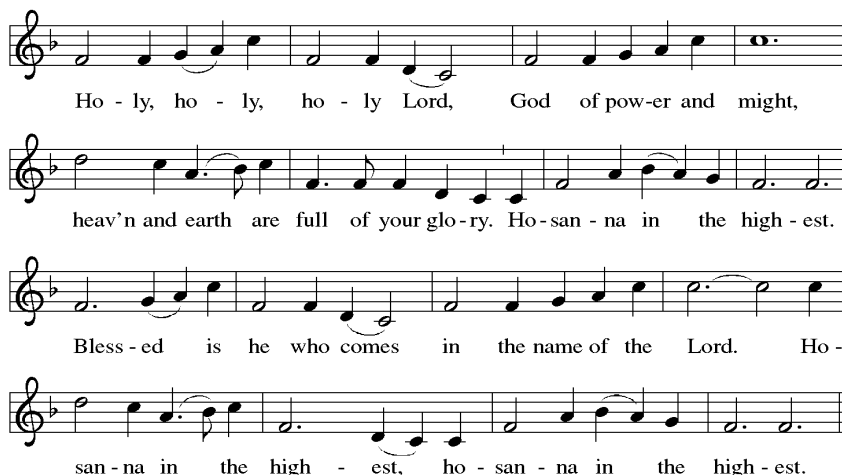
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Preface**

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

The night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Pew Communion: *Those who wish to commune from their seats using the prepackaged kits please open them now. Take and eat and drink, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.*

Assistants Commune

Communion

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion Hymns:

Who is He in Yonder Stall (Public Domain) 5 verses

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (ELW #244) 4 verses

***Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

***Post Communion Prayer**

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

***Benediction**

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *People, Look East* (ELW #248) 4 verses

***Sending for Service**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

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SERVING TRINITY TODAY

Director of Music – Sandra Wingert
Assisting Minister – Don Swart
Communion Assistants – Carol Swart and Donna Wolfe
Communion Cups – Josie Thomas
Musician – Matt Cessna
Usher – Norra Swart
Greeter – Norra Swart
IT Ministry – IT Team
Communion Preparers – Don and Carol Swart

TODAY WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Gust Barbuzanes, Debbie Boggs, Marie Dean, Sue Deardorff, Donna, Terry and Laura Ellis, Shirley Freeman, Nancy Freshman, Sally Funk, Sue Gardenhour, Desarie Dean Gregory, Jake Johns, Tracy Loucks, Doug McCullough, Beth Miller, Don Swart, Bud and Donna Wolfe.

The prayer list will be purged at the end of the month. If you wish a name to be retained (other than homebound members) please call or email the office – 717-597-9348/ tlcsecoffice@gmail.com.

Each week we also remember four members and friends of our congregation: Barbara Arnold, Autumn, Christian and Ophelia; Don Berger; Bob Bowers and Judy Hovey; Matt, Linde, Madison and Grace Cessna.