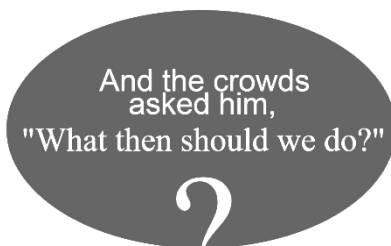


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1410 Rogers St
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Pastor Joyce Heintz
Ministers: Every Baptized Member
Sunday, December 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.



LUKE 3:10, NRSV

Trinity's Mission

Bringing God's love to the world in worship, witness, and service.

Trinity's Vision

A Christ and Scripture centered congregation.

- Mission centered congregation constantly evaluating its vision to accomplish its mission.
- A congregation whose members sense that they belong to the body of Christ and, in turn want to provide for the needs of others.

Telephone: 715 344-2869, Email: trinity@trinitysp.com
Fax: 715 344-9123, Website: www.trinitysp.com

Third Sunday of Advent

ACS Holy Communion Setting 12

Introduction to the day

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Bell Choir Call to Worship: "Peace"

Children's Message and Candle Lighting

*Candle Lighting/Gathering Song: "Come Light Our Hearts"

Sandra McCracken

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For

5 E A E
You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. Tru - ly our hope is in You,

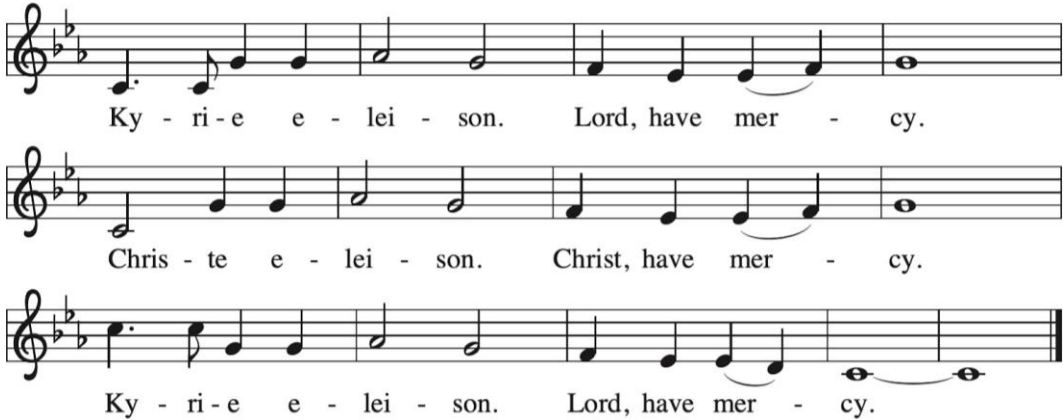
10 3rd time to Coda ⊕ B E
tru - ly our hope is in You. 1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we

15 A B E
shines on all who look to You in the dark. Em - man - u - el come, come light our hearts.
find more than e - nough. We come as we are; O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

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.**

Kyrie (sung before and after each petition)



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Choir Anthem:

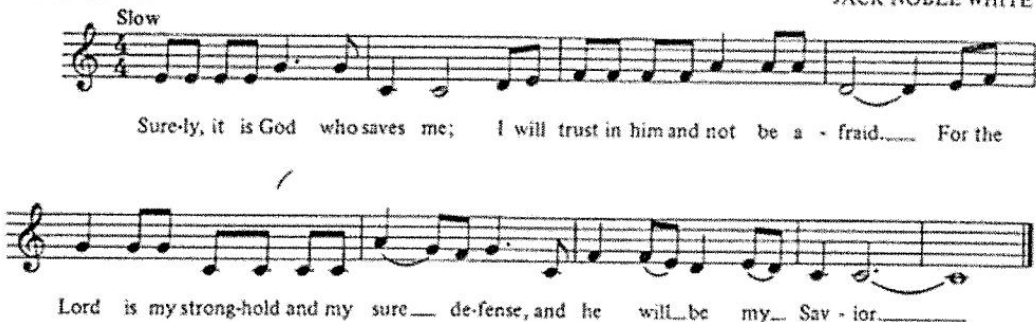
“First Song of Isaiah”

Jack Noble White

Congregation join on the refrain

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE



Slow

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the

Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

A Poem for Advent Three: A Turning Word

A cry breaks through the stillness,
not a voice to comfort,
but one that unsettles the ground we walk on.
It pulls the dust from the air
and stirs the quiet inside.

We've come to listen—
not knowing how much we need
to be unmade.

We've brought our questions,
our confusion, our routines,
but no answers.

The word comes like a stone
thrown into calm waters,
rippling, widening—
inviting us to see what's beneath
the surface,
what we've forgotten,
what we've buried.

It's not a message of comfort,
but a call to look again:
To how we speak,

how we hold what we have,
how we look at the ones we pass by.

And yet, the question lingers,
not in judgment, but in hope—
What if we could be different?
What if, in turning,
the earth itself could turn with us?

The answer, maybe,
is not in words,
but in the movement
we choose to make.
A step forward,
a hand reaching out,
a heart that knows it cannot stay the same.

Somewhere, in the quiet that follows,
there's a promise.
A promise we cannot see,
but that calls us onward—
into a wilderness
where we will be remade.

Gospel Acclamation: *"In Silence We Wait"* ACS #998 (sing 2x)

The musical notation is written on two staves in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "come to us; bring us your light." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are centered under the notes.

In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

Gospel:

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise."

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon:

Pastor Joyce Heintz

Hymn of the Day: "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" ELW #242

Advent Creed

We believe in God the Father, Ruler of the universe;

Creator of all and giver of life.

With patience and hope, he waits for us to see him,

To love his creation, and all its people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son;

Who once came to live as God with us;

Who will come again, one day, to be God for us.

He loves us with a powerful passion

And has given his life and has risen from the grave
For the forgiveness of our sins against God.
We look forward to the day when he comes to us again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The living, moving Power that blows like a wind among us;
Who empowers us, renews us, and strengthens us
For our journey of faith. Amen.

Prayer Song: ***“We Are Waiting for Jesus”*** ACS #905
(verse 1 before prayer, verse 2 after prayer)



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer Song: ***“We Are Waiting for Jesus”*** ACS #905
(verse 2)

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

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering/Bell Choir: ***“The Moon of Wintertime”***

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Great 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.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Gluten free bread (allergen: egg). GF wafers are also available.

Communion Song:

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns:

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” ACS #901

“Come Now, O God” ACS #902

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in † Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Song:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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