

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

1900 Marie Foster Street, Selma

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**E-Mail:** [trinitylutheran1900@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheran1900@gmail.com)**Church President:** Mr. Edwin Peebles**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.****Steven Washington, Pastor**

261 Speir Drive, Valley Grande, 36703

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**E-Mail:** [washing54@gmail.com](mailto:washing54@gmail.com)**Website:** [tlc1900.org](http://tlc1900.org)**Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.****THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT****December 11, 2022****Advent Adverbs: Joyfully****As We Gather**

Advent is a most joyful time and a time for great praise of our God. Today is the "joyful Sunday" in Advent. With Mary's beautiful song, the Magnificat, we exult that God has "done great things" and that "His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation" (*LSB*, pp. 248–49). With Mary, we rejoice that God "has shown strength with His arm" especially to those who are lowly and humbled. In his paraphrase of the Magnificat, hymnwriter Stephen Starke invites us to "Sing the greatness of the Lord" and "With praise and blessing Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy" (*LSB* 933:1). There is so much joy in Advent—it simply must be shared!

**PREPARATION****Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**368 Angels We Have Heard on High**

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

**ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Him whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee  
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**  
 Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French  
 Text: Public domain

## Opening Sentences

*Psalm 100; 118:24*

- P This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**C let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
**C Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**
- P Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people,  
 and the sheep of His pasture.  
**C Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!**
- P Give thanks to Him; bless His name!  
**C For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.  
**C Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**
- P God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us, our Lord says, "Fear not!" and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.  
**C Amen.**

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

**C Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.**

I *I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.*

II *My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.*

I *With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.*

II *O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.*

**C So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.**

### Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*During the singing of the hymn, three candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.*

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
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.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup>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.

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle***James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel***Matthew 11:2–15*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

ref **Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual

Text: Public domain

### Sermon

#### Creed

#### *The Third Article*

P The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

**C 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.**

P What does this mean?

**C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your Church that, by their devoted service, faith may abound and Your kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** In Your mercy strengthen newly established congregations, and support them in challenging times. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially *[(USA) the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this [state/commonwealth], and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws.] [(British Commonwealth) [His/Her] Majesty, the [King/Queen], the governor general, the prime minister and the parliament, the government of this province, and all who have authority over us.]* Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Sanctify our homes with Your presence, and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Let Your blessing remain upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity (especially *[name]*). Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near (especially *[name]*). Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**



P We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors (especially *[name]*). Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C Amen.**

## Offering

### Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

### Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### 349 Hark the Glad Sound

*sts. 1-3*

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
 In Satan's bondage held.  
 The gates of brass before Him burst,  
 The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
 The bleeding soul to cure,  
 And with the treasures of His grace  
 To enrich the humble poor.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Text: Public domain

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## **Acknowledgments**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME - A warm welcome to everyone!** If you are our GUEST, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. **BLESSINGS!**

**ADVENT** – Today is the Third Sunday in Advent.

**NO LWML MEETING TODAY** – LWML members, please be reminded that we will not meet today. We will visit our sick/shut-in members at their homes. Turn in your LWML 2023 suggestion sheet to Ms. Paulette Ishman.

**MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE** – Our final Mid-Week Advent Service will be on this coming Wednesday. Our start time will be changed from 6:00 p.m. to 12:10 noonday. Hopefully, this will allow more people to attend during the lunch hour.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY LUNCHEON** – The members of our Mid-Week Bible Study are asked to attend the year-end luncheon this Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. We'll plan to meet at the Sandbar @ the Marina. Our restart time for Mid-Week Bible Study will be announced in the month of January.

**I KINDLY ASK** – I wish to ask that no one except me, Pastor Washington, would take the mail out of the mailbox. This will ensure the continued smooth processing of our bills and other church business. Also, it will eliminate the unnecessary handling by anyone else other than myself, members' tithes & offerings which are mailed to the Church.

**SENIOR DAY OUT** – Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** – Saturday at 12:00 noon.

**PRAYER HOUR** – Please join us each Saturday at 11 a.m. for prayer. Dial 1/681-999-0264; Access Code 391959#. Also, I invite you to go on our website and view our monthly newsletters and other information. On there you will also see a complete listing of prayer requests/concerns.

**BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER** – If anyone has news or information for the bulletin and/or newsletter, please email the information to Mrs. Veazey at [dorothyveazey@outlook.com](mailto:dorothyveazey@outlook.com). Information for the bulletin should be submitted or emailed by Friday of each week.

### **"Happy Birthday"**

11<sup>th</sup> Xenovia Murphy

13<sup>th</sup> Jessica Perkins

16<sup>th</sup> Caroll Ishman



Wednesdays – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

GROUP NA, – Open Meeting\*

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 Marie Foster Street, Selma, AL

\*Classroom 3 (Ring outside doorbell)

### **Selma AL-Anon Family Group**

This is a mutual support group for those who have been affected by another person's drinking. Some of us come to meetings because a spouse or partner has struggled with alcoholism. For others, the problem drinker is a parent, child, or grandchild. Sometimes it is a brother, sister, or some other friend or relative. The meetings are Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 Marie Foster Street, Selma, AL in the first classroom on the left.

### **Advent**

Lord Jesus, You promised to return in glory to judge both the living and the dead. Grant us repentance and sorrow over sin in this season when we remember Your imminent return in judgment. Lift up our heads and eyes as we await our redemption. Renew and strengthen our faith with John and all the saints of God as we remember Your first advent and look with anticipation to Your second coming. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Stewardship Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me when I take for granted all the blessings You give me. Forgive me for my selfishness and thoughtlessness. Give me a heart of gratitude and help me to share with others some of what You've given me. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**