



*My soul
magnifies the
Lord, and
my spirit
rejoices in
God my
Savior*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
“STRENGTH OF THE LORD”

REV. TIMOTHY D. SMITH

8AM & 9:30AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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FOCUS Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today's Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

Today is U-Pik-da-Music! We will be choosing the music for today's service during the welcome. Please see song choices below. Song lyrics will be displayed on the screens at the front of the sanctuary.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING of the BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(Pick Two)*

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"	LSB 367, v.1,3-5
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"	LSB 515, v.1,4
"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"	LSB 336, v.1,4
"Lift Up, Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"	LSB 341, v.1,4

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 25:6-7

- L** Brothers and sisters in Christ, James, the brother of our Lord Jesus instructs us saying, “confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Let us then confess our sins to God our Father and receive the healing he longs to give us.

(A time of silence is observed.)

We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

- C** **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

- L** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

- C** **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

HYMN

“Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent”

For - give us, Lord, for times when love was lost, And mo - ments when we

nev - er thought to care, For times when we de - stroy and sub -

due The Word that brings Your peo - ple close to You.

For - give, for - give, for - give us all our sins

And help us love so new - ness can be - gin.

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L Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L In this season of longing and anticipation, we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage, and obedience,

C **Stepping out into the unknown in the strength of the Spirit, playing their part in the fulfillment of God's plan.**

L In this season of longing and anticipation, we pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives,

C **that when God's gentle whisper breaks through the clamor of this world into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, ready to act. Amen.**

(Four Advent candles are lit.)

Cantor/Choir: In this season of longing and anticipation, God is at work in the heart of creation, offering all new life and salvation: And Mary answers God's call!

ALL:

O-pen our eyes to sights, signs, and won-der; o-pen our ears to hear_ Your

Word; o-pen our hearts to live with each oth-er__ in__ love, In-car - nate Lord!

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SALUTATION and PRAYER of the DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361, v.1,4



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
O come to us, a - bid with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;"⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second.¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN of the DAY *(Pick One)*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357, v.1,4-7

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

LSB 356

SERMON

“Strength of the Lord”

Rev. Timothy D. Smith

GATHERING of TITHES and OFFERINGS

MISSION STATEMENT: *To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.*

VISION STATEMENT: *To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING HYMN “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” (Mary’s Song)



1. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
2. To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3. To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim:
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great wond-ers you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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PRAYER of the CHURCH

L As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

(A brief time of silence may be observed.)

O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. Bless the members of our Senior Pastor Call Committee as they meet, evaluate candidates and work on our behalf. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable

people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially* . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn (*especially*...) and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The 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.

Service of the Sacrament

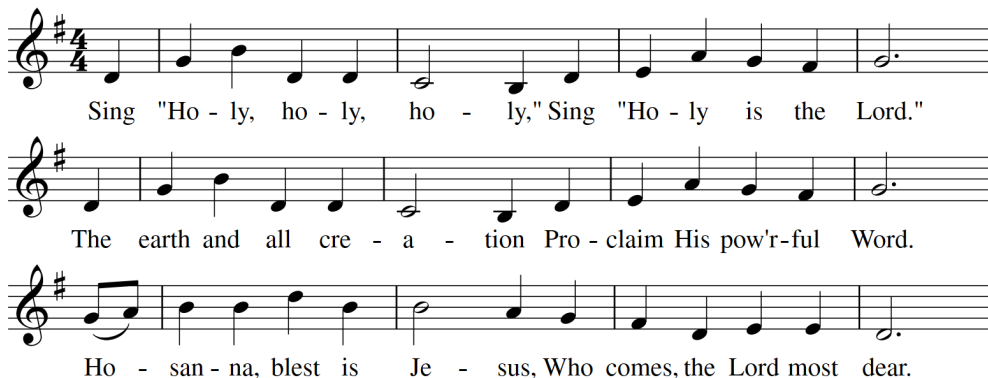
PREFACE

- L** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C** And also with you.
- L** Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- L** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who made peace between God and humanity by dying on the cross and being raised by the Father. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS HYMN *(sung to the tune of "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers")*



Sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," Sing "Ho - ly is the Lord."

The earth and all cre - a - tion Pro - claim His pow'r-ful Word.

Ho - san - na, blest is Je - sus, Who comes, the Lord most dear.



With heav'n-ly saints and an - gels Sing we "Ho - san - na" here.

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WORDS of INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN *(sung to the tune of "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers")*



O Lamb of God most ho - ly, You take our sin a - way.



O Lamb of God, have mer - cy On each of us this day.



O_ Lamb of God most ho - ly, You take our sin a - way.



Grant us Your peace, Lord Je - sus, In - to e - ter - nal day.

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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *(Pick Two)*

"Now Sing We Now Rejoice"	LSB 386
"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"	LSB 350
"See Amid the Winter's Snow"	LSB 373
"God Loves Me Dearly"	LSB 392

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting. Let us depart in peace.

C Amen.

L Let us pray. Father in heaven, we thank you and praise you for feeding us tonight with the body and blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. As we leave this place, form in us the faith of Mary, so that we too may say, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” Strengthen us by your Word and sacrament, so that we may honor you with the lives we live and be powerful witnesses to your mercy and grace. We ask it in Jesus’ name.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

L 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 ☩ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN *(Pick One)*

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

POSTLUDE

PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Timothy D. Smith, Associate Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Mr. Rick Stengl, DCE*

ORGANIST: *Mr. Matthew Hoehne, Director of Music*

ELDERS: *8am—Troy Pagel, Terry Knoll; 9:30am—Michael Hase, Douglas Beisner*

ACOLYTES: *8am— ; 9:30am—*

TECH: *8am— ; 9:30am—*

COFFEE HOST: *Sue Thiel*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY—

8am & 9:30am Sunday

BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY—

5pm Saturday & 11am Sunday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month in the Upper Sanctuary. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 9:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School, our Childcare (infant through 13 years), and through our association with Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School.
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.

VISION STATEMENT:

To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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