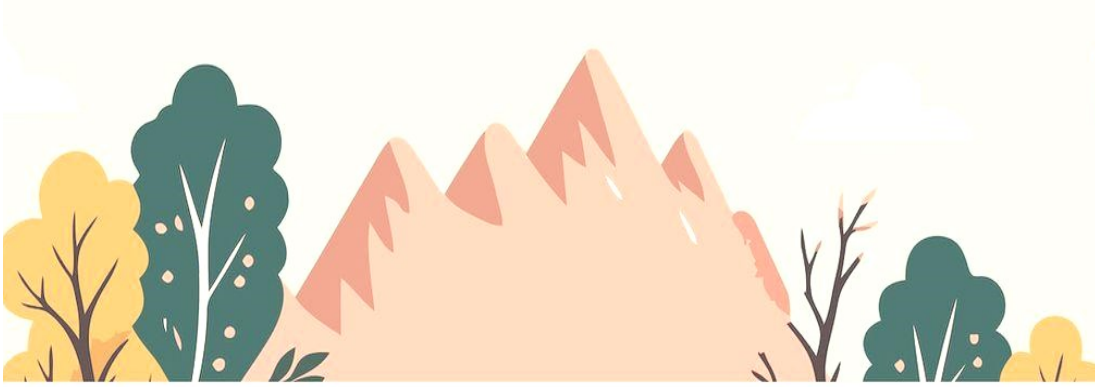


I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS,



MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT & CHORAL SERVICE

"IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU"

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 IN THE SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT & CHORAL SERVICE

"IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU"

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

AS WE GATHER Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus' arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the center-piece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others, God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *Held*
"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" *Busarow*
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" *Rose*
"A Carol Festival" *Rogers; JuBellation Handbells*

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



Choir: 1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
ALL: 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
ALL: 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
ALL: 4 Re - jice, re - jice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap-ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Larkin

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to

proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ... ⁸ For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

P Rejoice, greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you.

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

CHORAL RESPONSE “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion”

Kosche

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ... ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are

you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *LSB 384, arr. Behnke*

*Men of
the Choir:*

1. Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

*ALL Women
& Handbells:*

2. Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

- Choir:* 3. This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

- ALL:* 4. O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

- ALL:* 5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

"It's Not About You"

Rev. James L. Mayland

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Wonder in the Heavens"

arr. Fettke

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Response is sung by congregation [first time by choir])*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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P With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray to the Lord. God of the Church, we pray for all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who lead and teach Your people. Bless them and by Your Holy Spirit, move among us all so that we may prepare the way of the Lord and be powerful witnesses to Your love. God of all mercies, help us as we...

C *(sung)* "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"

P God of joy, today we rejoice with those who rejoice that we may know joy in the fellowship of one another. Bless them as they celebrate and help us to be always mindful of Your goodness. God of all mercies, help us as we...

C *(sung)* "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"

P Compassionate Lord, we mourn with those who mourn, that they may be comforted with the peace that comes alone from You. God of all mercies, help us as we...

C *(sung)* **"Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"**

P God of healing, today we remember all those with special needs. In love, look upon them and according to Your good and gracious will, meet their needs and send us to minister to them; God of all mercies, help us as we...

C *(sung)* **"Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"**

P Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for Your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord who has taught us to pray,

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.

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.*

MUSICAL OFFERING **"Christmas Carol Fest"** *Wagner; JuBellation Handbells*

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord’s Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior’s body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

LADIES TREBLE CHOIR—	“Glory to God”	<i>Pergolesi</i>
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN—	“Hark the Glad Sound”	<i>LSB 349</i>
SPECIAL MUSIC—	“Christmas Gloria”	<i>McNair</i>
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN—	“Once He Came in Blessing”	<i>LSB 333</i>

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. Gracious Lord, You Word says to us: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
G **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**
P We joyfully give You thanks for the blessings offered to us in the body and blood of our Savior.
G **May we go forth to witness to others of the wonders He has done!**
P We pray in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- 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 ✠ give you peace.
G **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Kerr

PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Rod Riese*

MUSICIANS: *JuBellation Handbells, Sanctuary Choir & Ladies Treble Choir,
Rod Riese, director; Duet—Dawn Graveen, Jody Seybold
Flute—Lisa Knoll; Oboe—Jenna Hansen*

ELDERS: *7:30am—Bob Zimmerman, Raun Egner; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Dan Oelke*

ACOLYTES: *9am—Elijah Kresin, Isaac Neumueller*

TECH: *9am—Ryder Lessmiller*

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/BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—

7:30am & 9am Sunday

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY—

5pm Saturday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday in the 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 10:15am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:15am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **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.