

December 20, 2020
9:30 Worship
4th Sunday of Advent



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
"Participating in God's mission of life"
7104 - 39th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53142

*We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
(All are welcome here)*
Email: churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org
Phone 262-694-5050

*Without fanfare, an angel announced the coming of a baby to Mary.
While she waited, she took the opportunity to seek out her support community
and prepare for the child's arrival.*

*The mission of God is life. Hope replaces despair. Faith replaces fear. Life
replaces death. How are you participating in God's mission of life?*

WELCOME

AM: Good morning. Welcome in the name of the Lord to Trinity, Kenosha. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who welcomes and affirms all persons into the life of our faith community.

We extend a special welcome for those watching who are new to our faith community and invite you to explore our ministries by visiting our website at trinitykenosha.org. Our new member team leader, Joe Falduto, is eager to listen and answer your questions about our ministries. Please feel free to email him. Welcome to worship!

SPECIAL MUSIC

♪♪ **Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)**

(C. Tomlin, E. Cash, S. Cash)

*You hear me when I call, You are my morning song.
Though darkness fills the night, it cannot hide the light.
Whom shall I fear?*

*You crush the enemy underneath my feet.
You are my sword and shield, though troubles linger still.
Whom shall I fear?*

*I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.
The One who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.*

*My strength is in Your name, for you alone can save.
You will deliver me, yours is the victory.
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?*

*I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.*

*The One who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.*

*Nothing formed against me shall stand.
You hold the whole world in Your hands.
I'm holding on to Your promises.
You are faithful. You are faithful.*

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You hold the whole world in Your hands.
I'm holding on to Your promises.
You are faithful. You are faithful. You are faithful.*

*I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.
The One who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine.
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*I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.
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ADVENT INTRODUCTION

P: In Advent, we're reminded how much we need a Savior and we look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit." In the season with this name, we keep in mind both "advents" of Christ: the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come.

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

AM: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.



The candles of our Advent wreath will be lit by Edy Cooper, Gigi, Hayes, and William Manthei

♪♪ Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah verse 4, Hymn #240

*Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish the darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!*

GATHERING SONG

♪♪ People Look East..... Hymn #248

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim.
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

FORGIVENESS AND CONFESSION

P: We gather in the name of God the Creator, God the Incarnate, and God the Advocate. Amen.

Trusting in the abundant mercy and everlasting love of the Holy Triune God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Renewing God,

C: ...You have come into our world to live among us, yet we often lose sight of this and seek to manufacture our own truth. We are afraid to share your word lest others judge or mock us. We ignore your wisdom because it isn't convenient. We allow ourselves to be defeated by despair. Forgive our negligence and breathe new life into our heavy hearts.

P: God knows our every weakness and sin yet loves us and affirms our lives. Hear this good news! Your sins are forgiven. Your past regrets and shame forgotten and your hope restored in the name of our incarnate savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

All: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE

♪♪ *All Who Are Thirsty*

(Brown, Robertson)

All who are thirsty, all who are weak

Come to the fountain dip your heart in the stream of life.

Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away

In the waves of His mercy as deep cries out to deep.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

*All who are thirsty, all who are weak
Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away.
In the waves of His mercy as deep cries out to deep.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*As deep cries out to deep, as deep cries out to deep
As deep cries out to deep.*

*Holy Spirit, come. Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come. Holy Spirit, come.*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day. God of surprises,

**C: ...You blessed Mary and Elizabeth with the gift of holy children,
and they faithfully embraced your calling. Give us peace and joy
as we await your coming among us, in the form of a humble
baby—our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

AM: Scriptures today will be read by Linda McKinney

L: Through the proclaimed word of God, the holy Spirit moves to instill
and deepen faith.

A reading from the gospel of Luke. (Luke 1:26-56)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have

found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to

Abraham and to his descendants forever.”⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

L: A reading from the book of Psalms.

(Psalm 113)

¹Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

²Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

⁴The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

⁶who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

⁷He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

⁹He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON -

Pastor Tom

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION - VIDEO

A moment of silence follows the sermon for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

♪♪ *My Soul Proclaims* **Hymn 251**

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim -

Great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

*To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
The hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.*

*To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
The promise to our parents made their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
And praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

AM: Please text your prayer requests to 287-8098.

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: God of hope,....**"Hear our prayer"**

AM: As Mary sought support from her cousin Elizabeth, so lead us to those who can help us in times of unusual challenge in our lives, rather than thinking we can take on the world all by ourselves. God of hope,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: From the rising of the sun to its setting, all creatures praise your name, O Lord. May we join their song and live as faithful inhabitants of your abundant earth, caring for all that lives and taking only what we need. God of hope,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Be with all who are anticipating the birth of a child: the excited and hopeful, the nervous and conflicted, the fearful and anxious. Bless all children, especially those who are born into difficult circumstances and give parents strength to shepherd the new lives they have created. And grant your healing power to all who need it most... God of hope,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: We celebrate the life of Katharina von Bora Luther and all the renewers of your church, praying for your wisdom to continue their legacy of proclaiming grace. God of hope,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: *(Here other petitions are offered)* God of hope,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Our eyes await the fulfillment of all your promises, the answer to all our prayers: your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

C: Amen.

PEACE

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

AM: If you are gathered with friends or family, share a word of peace with one another.

OFFERING

AM: During this season of “together while apart” your financial gifts given to the glory of God are especially precious and needed.

There are three ways to give:

1. Mail a check to Trinity, 7104 - 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142
2. Text a dollar amount with dollar sign (i.e. \$20) to: 262-429-9785
3. Select the “Giving” button on our homepage,

www.trinitykenosha.org

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

AM: Let us pray:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

AM: As we pray together the Lord's Prayer, please use the version that best nurtures your faith.

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.

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS - Pastor Tom

BLESSING

P: Let Mary's words guide your daily life so that you are blessed by them:
"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior." **C: Amen**

♪ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1, 3, & 4 LWS Hymn #34

*Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*Oh come, strong branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*Oh come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

DISMISSAL

AM: Go. Live by faith. The advent of the Lord is very near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**