



... I will put my words in the
MOUTH OF THE **PROPHET**,
who shall speak to them
everything that I command.

Deuteronomy 18:18, NRSV



MEMBER OF THE CHURCH





Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

December 10th, 2023

Organist: Kathy Conway

Video: Stan White & Ben Reim

4704 N Wall St
Spokane, WA 99205

Bible Class: 9:15am
Worship: 10:30am

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Service of the Word

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

TLH 63 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (spoken) Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

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

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us pray together:

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to

help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

Gloria Patri

TLH pg 16



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

TLH pg 17



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

TLH 237 (v. 1)

♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!

To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.

God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;

Oh thank Him for His goodness! ♪

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C (spoken) And also with you.

P Let us pray. . .

C (spoken) Amen

First Reading

Luke 17:26-37 (ESV)

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the

field not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." 37 And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 28:6-8

P Blessed be the Lord,

C Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!

P The Lord is my strength and my shield;

C My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;

P Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,

C And with my song I will praise Him.

P The Lord is their strength,

C And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:10-17

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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 there 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.**

Hymn of the Day

TLH 98 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Sermon

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

17 “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ 21 And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’— 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Sermon Theme:

Our Powerful God Produces Prophets

I: A prophet to hear God's Word

II: A Prophet who is God's Word'

III: Prophets to speak God's Word

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Offertory

C ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. ♪

Hymn

WS 708 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Offering

Prayer of the Church + The Lord's Prayer

P . . . in whose Name we also join to pray together:

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 upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

WS 706 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Welcome to Worship at Trinity!

Please wait to be ushered out of the sanctuary. Please do not leave any bulletins or other materials behind. **Offerings** may be left in the offering plate in the rear of the sanctuary or mailed to the church.

Guest and Visitors, we are delighted to have you here for worship with us this morning and are grateful for the opportunity to share the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ with you! Because He lives, we shall live also! We invite you to sign our guest book in the entryway. Please speak to the members and pastor if you wish to learn more about the Gospel ministry here at *Trinity*, and we hope to see you again!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY – After worship we will be having our Christmas party, complete with food, carols, and a gift exchange. Everyone is welcome (whether you bring anything or not), so please plan to join us!

CHURCH COUNCIL – The church council will meet after worship next Sunday, December 17th. Women’s Circle will not be meeting this month.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP – In the entryway are three sign-up sheets for cleaning, greeting, and mowing at Trinity. If you are willing to help in any or all of these areas, we would be very grateful for your time and energy! Col 3:23 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES – The church council has decided not to hold midweek Advent services this year. A midweek devotional video will be uploaded to each Wednesday evening until Christmas.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP – Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, our Christmas Eve worship will take place at 10:30am on Sunday December 24th. Christmas Day worship of lessons and carols will follow the next day, December 25th, at the same time.

MEMBER INFO FORM – Last Sunday, member info forms were distributed to update our information on current members and collect information from new members. This is helpful for a lot of reasons (church directory, calendars, funeral planning, to name a few), so please fill one out. If you need a form, they are in the bottom right slot of the church mailboxes.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- **Kate Sauers**, wife of Pastor Rob Sauers who serves Immanuel Lutheran

Church in Winter Haven FL, was diagnosed with cancer recently. May God keep Kate in His loving care and bless the family with Gospel comfort.

- **Molly’s friend, Jeanne**, has continued to take chemotherapy treatment to treat a brain tumor. May the Lord, in His love, alleviate any pain and suffering and grant healing according to His will.
- Please keep **Pastor John Hein and his family** in your prayers as he continues treatment for his thymic carcinoma. For updates on his care, visit: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/pastorjohnhein>. Additionally, a GoFundMe has been set up to help offset medical and travel expenses: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/john-and-janelle-hein-family>.

CALL NEWS

<> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, is *considering* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC is *considering* the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

<> Michaela Winters, lower grade teacher at Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI is *resigning* at the conclusion of the current school year to spend more time with her infant daughter.

FRUITS OF FAITH AT TRINITY		
Date	Attendance	Offering
11/12/23	24	\$1,365
11/19/23	18	\$640
11/26/23	18	\$730
12/3/23	22	\$3,371

GREETER SCHEDULE	
Next Sunday	Joyce Miller
12/24	Jeanne Helke
12/30	Dennis & Linda Lux

DECEMBER CLEANING SCHEDULE	
North Entry	Lux
Sanctuary	White
Basement	Naumann

Midweek Advent Devotion #1 (12/6/2023)

In lieu of having midweek Advent services this year, at Trinity we will be having short devotions uploaded here to aid us in focusing on what wonderful things the Lord has brought to pass and made known to us surrounding the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

But how do we know that Jesus is the Savior, the promised Messiah that was foretold? After all, many people over the years have claimed to be the Messiah and even more believe that He has not yet come. But as we look to God's Word this year to hear the Christmas account once more, we will see that the Lord wisely placed many markers by which His people would know precisely who the Christ was when He arrived.

These markers we call "Messianic prophecies", and the first one we will look to today comes to us from the pen of the prophet Micah, chapter 5 verse 2: *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

There were certainly many babies born in Bethlehem over the years. Babies continue to be born in Bethlehem today. How does this help to narrow down which child is the Christ-child? We read of the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy in Matthew chapter 2. We're told there that *wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."*

When you see Christmas cards or nativity scenes, you'll most often find them having a brilliant star resting above the stable. This also is a Messianic prophecy from Numbers 24, verse 17, *"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel."* The wise men likely came from Babylon, Persia, or Arabia, and were evidently familiar with this prophecy from the Old Testament scriptures, which the Jews would have carried with them into captivity, and which evidently remained in the East after Israel's return from captivity.

And so the wise men follow the star all the way to Jerusalem and meet with King Herod, who then asks them where the Christ was supposed to be born. And we pick up reading in Matthew 2, verses 5-6: *So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "*

Going on in Matthew, you will read how the wise men then continued to follow to star to Bethlehem; that it went before them and came to rest on where the Child was. And going into the house they found the Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him, presenting to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What is fascinating about this account is that these wise men were Gentiles. They were not of the house of Israel and yet, armed only with Scripture, they were able to come directly to where Jesus lay. They worshiped Him not only as the Savior of Israel but as their Savior also, who had come into the world to pay for the sins of the world.

That is the exact same confidence that you and I have today as we read through the account of Jesus' birth. We don't have to make conjectures. We aren't going out on a limb, saying that Jesus is the most likely candidate for the title of Messiah. We Gentiles, armed only with Scripture, can read in the Old Testament to see exactly what the Messiah would look like, even in His birth. Micah wrote 700 years before Jesus was born. Moses wrote Numbers 1400 years before Jesus. And yet it seems that they may as well have been there to see it for themselves when we consider the accuracy with which our powerful God had brought this wondrous thing to pass.

We can follow along with the wise men, through Scripture, tracing the path of God's plan of salvation over the course of thousands of years to see how at this time and in this place, the Son of God entered the world to begin His work of redemption. Galatians 4:4-5, *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

And so we pray: *heavenly Father, you have revealed Your Son to the world through the power of Your Word. Be with us this Advent so that we may also see and believe that this Child born in Bethlehem, who would one day give His life on Calvary, is the Light to lead the Gentiles into the sure promise of eternal life in His Name. Amen.*

If these were the only two prophecies that God provided to show us that Jesus is the Christ, that would be enough. But God, in His power and wisdom, has given us many more. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that believing you may have life in His Name. We hope you will join us as we continue meditating on more of these prophecies and the miraculous ways that our Lord has brought them to pass. Our worship services take place on Sunday mornings at 10:30am, and we will be uploading similar devotions each Wednesday evening around

5pm. May the God of all peace grant you a blessed and quiet evening, for unto you is born in the city of David a Savior - who is Christ the Lord.

