

AND HE WHO WAS SEATED
ON THE THRONE SAID,

*"Behold, I am making
all things new."*



Revelation 21:5, ESV



MEMBER OF THE CHURCH



OF THE LUTHERAN
CONFESSION



Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

December 31st, 2023

Organist: Kathy Conway

Video: Stan White & Ben Reim

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

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Service of the Word

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

WS 716 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

Confession and Absolution

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

C (spoken) Amen.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C (spoken) Amen.

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



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



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

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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

Ezra 9:5-15

At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God. 6 And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our

guilt has grown up to the heavens. 7 Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day. 8 And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage. 9 For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. 10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments, 11 which You commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land, with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their impurity. 12 Now therefore, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons; and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.' 13 And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this, 14 should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations? Would You not be angry with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor? 15 O Lord God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 116:5-17

P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

C Yes, our God is merciful.

P The Lord preserves the simple;

C I was brought low, and He saved me.

P Return to your rest, O my soul,

C For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Second Reading

Matthew 6:16-21

"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your

Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in treble clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!', 'These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that', 'Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.', and '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 334 Let Me Be Thine Forever

Sermon Text

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Proper Form for the Race of Faith

I: Drop your burdens

II: Lift your eyes

III: Run your race

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

OFFERTORY

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn

TLH 354 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Offering

General Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

P . . . in whose Name we also 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.**

Closing Hymn

TLH 123 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING – Trinity’s annual voter’s meeting will take place two weeks from today (1/14) after worship. Voting members, please plan to be there. Non-voting members are also welcome to join – your input helps us to make decisions that more faithfully reflect the will of the whole congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS – One church council position will need to be filled at our upcoming annual meeting. The nominations committee (the church council) has nominated Ben Reim for election.

YOUR PASTOR THANKS YOU! – Thank you all for the very kind Christmas gift that was given to me after worship last Sunday! Even more so, thank you all for taking part in the important Gospel ministry here at Trinity. It is truly a blessing to be here and join you all in the work of spreading the good news of Christ crucified in Spokane!

COMMUNION – We will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper during next Sunday’s worship service. Please prepare your hearts accordingly.

MEMBER INFO FORM – 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.

National Women's Retreat--You're Invited! – Join your Christian sisters near and far at the next virtual retreat held via Zoom on Saturday, January 20th

(Noon Eastern / 11:00 a.m. Central / 10:00 a.m. Mountain / 9:00 a.m. Pacific). This year's theme is "Press Pause: God Made Me..." and will highlight the differing gifts that God gave each of us to use to His glory. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/NatRetreat24> Questions? Contact teichstadt@gmail.com or 651-398-2386.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – The offering envelopes for 2024 have been placed in your church mailboxes. If you have not received a collection of envelopes for the coming year but would like one, please speak with our treasurer, Stan White.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- **Tracy Poffenroth** underwent successful open heart surgery on Friday morning and is now in recovery. We thank God for answering our prayers and granting Him a smooth operation, and we continue to pray for a blessed convalescence.
- **Lorraine Poetter** was hospitalized last Tuesday after having a seizure and has spent much of the week in critical care at Sacred Heart. She has shown signs of improvement, and we pray that God would continue to aid in her recovery according to His perfect will.
- **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 Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO has received the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

<> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD has received the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

FRUITS OF FAITH AT TRINITY		
Date	Attendance	Offering
12/10/23	25	\$1,285
12/17/23	25	\$1,030
12/24/23	31	\$860
12/25/23	20	\$1,055

GREETER SCHEDULE	
Next Sunday	Ben Reim
1/14	Laurie White
1/21	Tom & Molly Bettinger

JANUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE	
North Entry	Clark
Sanctuary	Helke
Basement	Naumann

