

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The First Wednesday of Advent**  
**December 1, 2021 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

**WELCOME TO TRINITY!**

Thank you for worshiping with us today, whether at home or in person. Those joining us in person who are not fully COVID-19 vaccinated are asked to wear masks. Please follow the instructions given by Pastor and the ushers to maintain a healthy environment for all present.

There are times in our worship service where we stand or kneel. Feel free to participate in either as you are able or feel comfortable to remain seated.

Please ask an usher should you require a hearing assistance device.

(†) ~ Those who wish may make the sign of the Cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYER**

Prayer requests may be emailed to [trinityoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:trinityoffice@bellsouth.net) or to [pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com).

**FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

We are delighted that you have brought your child to worship! We invite you to use the Cry Room as a courtesy to others if your little one gets a little rambunctious. Our Cry Room, complete with seating and children's activities, is located at the back of the Sanctuary. The service can be heard through the sound system. We hope your children feel glad they were here and that they are a part of the Trinity family!

***Our Vision:***

***Growing in God's Word to Share Christ's Love***

***Our Mission:***

***Led by God, equipped as disciples through Word and Sacrament,  
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.***



### **AS WE GATHER TODAY**

We all have questions, though for a variety of reasons some choose not to ask them. It is true in a classroom and in various aspects of life, and it is also true in our lives of faith. Some teachers tell their students, “There is no such thing as a bad question,” and for the most part that encouragement and attitude is a good one. Our heavenly Father would carry the same sentiment as He invites whatever we bring before Him, including our questions. This Advent season, a few hard questions will be asked about our Lord, and our answers will be found in His Word and through the awaited Savior born for us. Today begins with some “how” and “why” questions and answers as we journey together in Advent anticipation.

# ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

When Heaven Met Earth:  
Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking  
*The Birth of God: How . . . and Why?*

*Please Stand*

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *LSB 334:1*

Pastor: O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?

People: **Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!**

Pastor: In this Advent season, reflecting on and anticipating the joy to come when heaven met earth through the promised and long-awaited Savior, we seek answers to our questions as we remain on this earth.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

People: **and the day is almost over.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

## HYMN 334 v. 1 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.

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**COLLECT** "Thanksgiving for Light" LSB, p. 245

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

*Be Seated*

**READING** *Jeremiah 33:2–3, 14–16*

**Pastor:** God's Word speaks answers to our questions. The Lord revealed through the prophet Jeremiah a peace that would last.

**People:** "Thus says the LORD who made the earth,  
**the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is His name:**

**Pastor:** Call to Me and I will answer you,  
**People:** and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

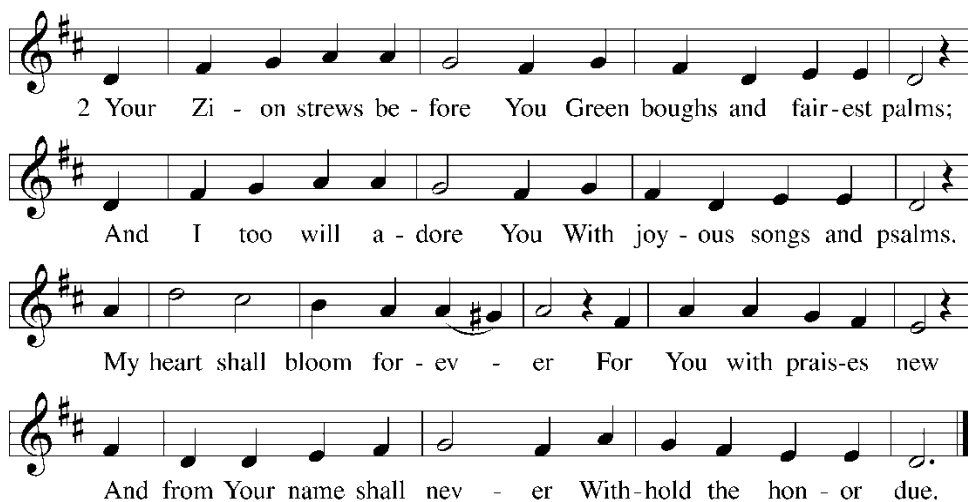
**Pastor:** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,

**People:** and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**Pastor:** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called:

**People:** 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**HYMN 334 v. 2** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"



2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.

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**PSALM**      *Psalm 24:1–4, 7–10*

Pastor:      The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,  
People:      **for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

Pastor:      Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
People:      **And who shall stand in His holy place?**

Pastor:      He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
People:      **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Pastor:      Who is this King of glory?  
People:      **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O  
gates!**

Pastor:      And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of  
glory?  
People:      **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

**HYMN 341 v.1**      "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.

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**PRAYER**

Pastor:      Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

People:      **Amen.**

*Please Stand*

**READING** Luke 1:26–38 (The birth of Jesus foretold)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Lector: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

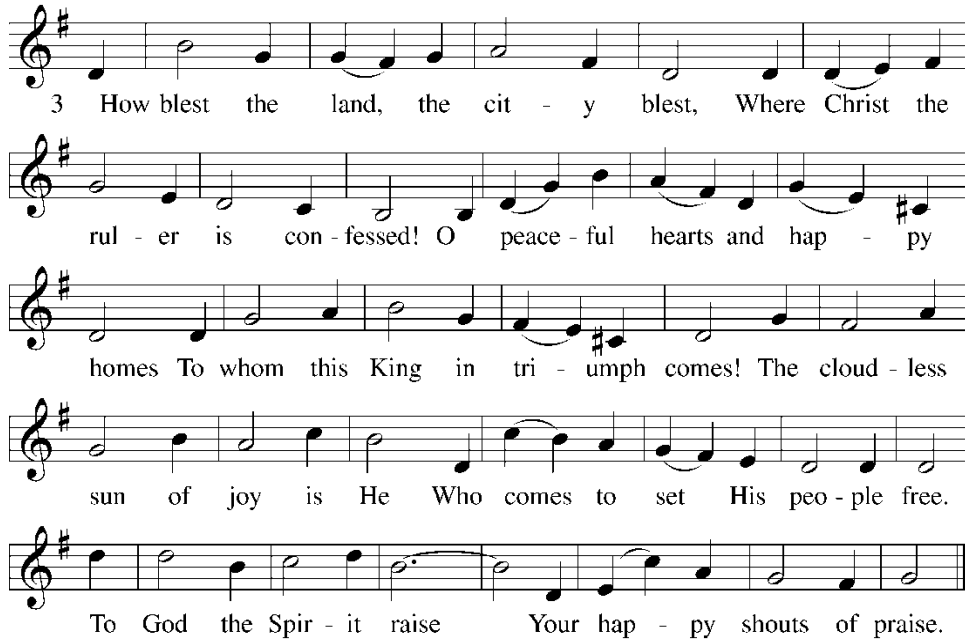
*Be Seated*

**HYMN 341 v. 2** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.

## SERMON

### HYMN 341 v. 3 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"



3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.

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## OFFERING

*Please Stand*

### CREEDAL RESPONSE *The Second Article*

**Pastor:** The season of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at His second coming. It is a time of reflection on redemption. Luther's Small Catechism, useful for individual and household learning through questions and answers based on God's unchanging Word, reminds us of Jesus' incarnation into this world, the totality of Christ's complete work, and the redemption He achieved for us. We confess together:

**People:** **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.**

**Pastor:** What does this mean?

**People:** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and**

**with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

*Kneel or Be Seated*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate again the coming of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and await His promised return. As questions enter our minds, such as “How can You take on human flesh, and why?,” we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world in sending Your only-begotten Son. By Your Spirit’s work through Your Word, enliven our hearts and minds, nourish our faith, and be with us as we wait and watch this season and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, through the incarnation of Your Son, heaven met earth, and through Him You would bring life and immortality to light. Be with those who face this season with doubts and despair, depression, and difficulties. Give Your comfort to those who seek our prayers, [*especially* . . .]. Grant healing according to Your will, along with peaceful minds and hopeful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may follow.*

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **ADVENT COLLECT**

Pastor: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that on the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.

## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**People:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## CLOSING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 24:7–10*

**Pastor:** Call to Me and I will answer you,

**People:** and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

**Pastor:** Lift up your heads, O gates!

**People:** And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**Pastor:** Who is this King of glory?

**People:** The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!

**Pastor:** And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

**People:** The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

*Please Stand*

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN 331** "The Advent of Our King"



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

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*Be Seated*

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Sherry Kreger.

# HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Wednesday Worship Services – December 8 and 15 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.

## THERE IS NO CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP THIS YEAR

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Friday, December 31 at 7:00 p.m.

## THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

*Matthew 1:1–16*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

## SEASON OF THE CHURCH YEAR

We begin the church year with an ending and a beginning. Advent is the season before Christmas during which we anticipate the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is in this Second Coming that He will judge the earth and raise all the dead. Those who have faith will be given their reward in heaven and live with Him eternally. Advent is a beginning as well. For we look forward to the time we celebrate Christ's first advent, His birth on this earth, which we celebrate on Christmas day. The color for Advent is blue, which suggests hope for us while we wait.

## THE SYMBOLS OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The evergreen wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The candles are symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The act of lighting more candles each week anticipates the imminent coming of Christ.

Each candle has a specific meaning:

1. **Prophecy Candle** announces a period of waiting for our Lord. – **Hope**
2. **Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes preparing to receive the Christ Child. – **Love**
3. **Shepherd's Candle** symbolizes sharing of the news of Christ's birth. The pink color is representative of their joy and witness to so great an event! – **Joy**
4. **Angels' Candle** symbolizes Christ's final coming on Judgment Day when He will appear in glory with all His angels. – **Peace**
5. **Christ Candle** is lit on Christmas Eve. This central candle signifies that the Light of the World, **Jesus, has come.**

## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Contact Pastor: 717-333-6263; pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com

### **STAFF**

Jeff Webb, Pastor  
Traci Schumacher, Administrative Assistant  
Helen Williams, Church Custodian

### **BOARD OF ELDERS**

Mark Waltz, Head Elder (Br – D)  
Bill Edwards (E - Ge)  
Mike Fajen (K – Ma)  
Todd Freesemann (Go - J)  
Sonny Massey (A - Bo)  
Rick Mizell (Mc - P)  
Bob Reynolds (Q – S)  
Tom Wayman (T - Z)

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

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Karen Hanovich, TLC Marketing  
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Rose Pitt, Prayer Team  
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