

Waiting and Giving Witness

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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 centerpiece 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!

OPENING HYMN**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL****LSB 357, vs. 1, 2, 4, 5*****INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCESPsalm 40:1-3*

P I waited patiently for the LORD;
C **He inclined to me and heard my cry.**
P He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
C **and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**
P He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
C **Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

P That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 357, vs. 6

***KYRIE**

LSB 204

- C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

***SALUTATION**

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers.
C **Enable our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

- ¹The 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;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to 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.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM (10:30am)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

AWAY IN A MANGER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*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.**

⁶There 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. . . .

¹⁹This 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.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***NICENE CREED**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

SERMON

WAITING AND GIVING WITNESS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH1 Thessalonians 5:16–17; Psalm 105:1–4*

- P Because it is our Father's will for His children to pray, let us "rejoice always, pray without ceasing," giving thanks in all circumstances.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of grace. Your kingdom is the eternal kingdom, O God, and we are blessed to witness to all peoples the saving work You have accomplished in Christ, our Lord and King.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

- C **make known His deeds among the peoples!**

- P Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Work in our midst as the mighty fortress of our lives, providing protection to those who labor for the benefit of others and to those who wear the uniform of our land. Grant wisdom to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and reach into every troubled corner of the world to bestow upon us Your mercy and peace. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

- C **tell of all His wondrous works!**

- P Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom. Glory in His holy name;

- C **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

- P Great Physician of body and soul, take great care of all those who are suffering in physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships. Comfort Your people who are sad and lonely. Warm all troubled hearts with the assurance of Your never-failing presence. Grant wholeness and healing to those in need. We give You thanks, Lord God, in all circumstances, including our struggles, for we know that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose. Seek the LORD and His strength;

- C **seek His presence continually!**

- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C **Amen.**

OFFERING

*PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*PROPER PREFACE

*SANCTUS

LSB 208

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
C **In Your boundless mercy You sent Your witness, John the Baptist, to point us toward Christ and His coming kingdom.**
- P With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

*LORD'S PRAYER

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*PAX DOMINI

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

*AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

DISTRIBUTION HYMN ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE LSB 354

DISTRIBUTION HYMN HARK THE GLAD SOUND LSB 349

*NUNC DIMITTIS

*POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

*BENEDICTION

HYMN TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD LSB 935, vs. 1, 2, 4

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving Our Lord

		December 17, 2023	December 24, 2023
Musician		Diane Streich	Merlin Simon
Cantor		Andy Koch	Andy Koch
Altar Guild		Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews	Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews
Elder	8am	Bill Breitinger	Jim Kohn
	10:30am	Sam Erdman	
Reader	8am	Matthew Boll	Jim Kohn
	10:30am	Tim Morris	
Usher Team	8am	Brian Nack	Gary Sheets
	10:30am	Terry Stoerzinger	
Greeter(s)	8am	Open	Open
	10:30am	Open	
Acolyte	8am	Isaac Koch	Open
	10:30am	Sean Hakanson	
Projection	8am	Open	Open
	10:30am	Caleb Morris	
Live Stream	8am	Jim Nicklas	9:00am Jim Nicklas
Coffee Hour	9:15am	TLO's LWML	N/A—no Bible class or Sunday school



Thank you to our Sunday school students for sharing their music in 10:30am worship. Thank you, too, for our dedicated Sunday school teachers and staff for their dedication to our Sunday school program, teaching each week and diligently praying for those in their classrooms. May our students always remember that the Babe born in the manger grew up, died and rose for their sins because He loves them and wants to spend eternity with them!



Pizza and Caroling **Sunday, December 17 | 11:30am | All ages**



Come enjoy pizza lunch after the late service today. Then bring Christmas joy to TLO members in homes and in Care Centers by forming caroling groups that make up to 4 stops. You didn't sign up? No problem—come anyway; we'll have plenty of food, laughter and fun for all!

COMING UP AT TLO — December 17, 2023 — December 26, 2023**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sun		Deliver a treat bag from the narthex to a TLO member
	8:00*am	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15am	Education Hour for all ages
	10:30am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday school students sing
	11:30am	Pizza and caroling; you're invited!
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	6:00pm	Hoops
Mon	10:00am	Adult Bible study
	12:30pm	12 Baskets / KFC donation for Dept of Indian Work
	6:30pm	Trail Life Troop 2950
Tue	10:30am	TLO leads worship at Lexington Pointe Senior Living
	5:30pm	Board of Christian Outreach
Wed	6:30am	Men's Bible study
	4:00pm	Midweek confirmation
	5:15pm	Soup supper served by Crafters
	6:30pm	Worship
Thur		No school - church office open
	6:00-9:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	7:00pm	B.R.E.W. Young Adult Ministry
Fri		No school - church office open
Sat	2:00-8:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sun	9:00*am	Worship — no Bible class or Sunday school
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	3:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
Mon	9:00*am	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
Tue		No school - church office closed
	7:00pm	TLO Church Council
*worship online at www.trinityloneoak.org		

**Joining Jesus As A Family**

January 20 | 9am-12noon | TLO

Greg and Susan Finke identify what Jesus shows us in the gospels to help parents *become more intentional and practical in raising Jesus-followers*. Experience Camp Omega counselors are providing

children's programming so bring the whole family to this encouraging event! *Jesus-followers*. Experience Camp Omega counselors are providing children's programming so bring the whole family to this encouraging event!

SCAN ME



WEEKLY DEPOSITS: December 10, 2023

General Fund Income:			
	Current and Mission Weekly Offering	\$	19,872.52
	(Our offering budget is \$8,525 per week)		
	Building Reserve Fund	\$	65.15
	(Our offering budget is \$665 for per week)		
	Thrivent Choice to Current and Mission	\$	33.00
	Thrivent Choice to 1883 Fund	\$	33.00
	1883 School Annual Fund	\$	595.23
	Chapel	\$	85.50
	Tuition	\$	20,053.24
	Sunday school	\$	1.00
	Verizon Tower Rental	\$	
	Church and school fees	\$	12,910.14
	Subtotal General Fund Income	\$	53,648.78
Special Purpose Income (not available for general fund spending)			
	YTF2	\$	235.45
	Acorn Scholarship Fund	\$	N/A
	Young Investors stamps through Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$	315.00
	Subtotal Special Fund Income	\$	550.45



2024 directories, calendars, offering envelopes ...these are all waiting for you in the narthex—pick up yours today!



Food for the Poor visits January 7

On January 7 Pastor Bob Weinhold will be returning as our guest preacher from Food for the Poor. Pastor Weinhold was here in January of 2022. He has been speaking for Food for the Poor for over 4 years and enjoys sharing the opportunity that we have as Christians to care for the poorest of the poor in the 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America that Food for the Poor serves. He has served in full time parish ministry in the LC-MS for 35 years in five different congregations and has been retired for 5 years. He has three grown children and four grandsons and lives with his wife, Lisa, in Dubuque, Iowa. We pray God's blessings upon the message that he shares with us as God guides us in His response to this tremendous need.



Remember in Prayer

Avianna (age 2), niece of Chelsea Cardenas, battling cancer

Rich and Dixie Cliff

Alice Dornseif, recovering from surgery

Ed Jones, father of David Jones and Julie Casby, for peace and comfort as he struggles with dementia

Joseph Labhart (Flannery's grandson) ongoing health concerns

Marilou Larson, close cousin of Alice Dornseif, continue prayers for resolution of autoimmune liver issues

Joyce (Kirchner) Moynihan, diagnosed with cancer

Ryan Kroonblawd - 1st year seminarian - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

LeAnn Peterson, sister of Andrea Hinrichs, recovering from foot surgery and complications

Sharon Phelps, mom of Cindy Rahn, transitioning after a fall

Verna Ratzlaff recovering at home

Stuart Weierke at the Minneapolis VA Home

Shelly Zeitlin and her family need our prayers as she is going through lymphoma cancer treatments.

Shelly is a longtime friend of Rob and Jane Shull.

Laverne and Beverly Ziebell. Our prayers are needed as they navigate day-to-day living



Alice Dornseif's temporary address is:

Good Samaritan Society

attn: Alice Dornseif

1119 Owens St. N.

Stillwater MN 55082

facility phone: 651-439-7180—cell: 651-724-1786



Weekly Memory Verse

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

— *Isaiah 40:1*



Birthdays this week

Dec 17 Michelle Nadeau, Wendy Rueger

Dec 18 Kurt Vallin, Amelia Volkert

Dec 19 Teri Garrity

Dec 20 Galata Benya

Dec 21 Elizabeth Berg

Dec 23 Corban Lumives

Anniversaries this week

Dec 18 Graig and Marie Lumives



Welcome Guests

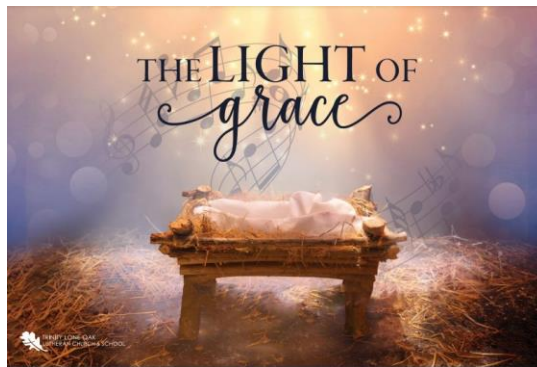
We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our pastor, a greeter or an usher. We love to make new friends!

For those with small children, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children's bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

Large print copies of the worship folder are available. Please ask an usher.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. Please speak with our pastor or an elder before communing if this is your first time receiving the Lord's Supper at TLO. The light-colored wine in the center of the individual communion tray is de-alcoholized wine, where the alcohol is reduced to .05%.



Christmas Worship

Join us as we worship The Light of Grace. Postcard invitations in the narthex make it easy to invite a friend or neighbor to worship with you!

December 24 | 9:00*am | Worship; 4th Sunday in Advent (note only one Sunday morning service)

December 24 | 3:30pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship

December 24 | 7:00*pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

December 25 | 9:00*am | Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

December 31 | 9:00*am | Worship with Holy Communion (note only one Sunday service)

*livestreamed at www.trinityloneoak.org