



Nurturing a Living Faith with Open Hearts and Serving Hands

502 N 4th St. Bismarck, ND 58501 ~ 701-223-3560 ~ www.trinitybismarck.com ~ trinity@trinitybismarck.com

Introduction to the Day

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

**2nd Sunday
of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 2022
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**



GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.
Amen.

SONG

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"
Verses 1-2

ELW #240

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

**Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ELW #290

Welcome to Worship at Trinity Lutheran

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not a building – it is you, the people. So "church," thanks for showing up today. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the "church."

We are thankful you are here. Through God's Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Bob Wefald (8:30), reader

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

WE INVITE THE GOSPEL

“Prepare the Royal Highway”
Verses 1-2

ELW #264

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME/SERMON

Sister Kathleen Atkinson
Executive Director, Ministry on the Margins

SONG

“Prepare the Royal Highway”
Verses 3-4

ELW #264

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please pray for Don, Mike, Annette, Jan, Jim, Elizabeth, Melissa and Cathy.

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

FEASTING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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YOUR GIFTS

October 2022

Income

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Contributions	\$ 99,149.17	\$891,765.84
Other Income	5,216.00	88,332.42
Transfer	200.00	2,000.00
Total Income	\$104,565.17	\$982,098.26
Expenses	\$ 78,690.59	\$969,154.52
Income less expenses	\$ (25,874.58)	\$ (12,943.74) *

***Due to the transition of systems and Financial Directors our benevolence had not been paid since March. We have begun to catch up however, we still have \$8,779.43 left to pay. The final payment of Benevolences was made at the beginning of November. We are now caught up, however these number do not show that \$8,779.43 removed from our income as it happened in November and not October. With that being said, it leaves us in the positive \$5,164.31.**

Electronic Giving - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Giving as a simple way to contribute. This would allow you the freedom from worry or concern whether you are out of town, on vacation or wondering how to budget your contributions. Simply Giving forms are available in the office, at the Welcome Center or on Trinity's website. We have also updated and simplified our website www.trinitybismarck.com in aiding you to give towards Trinity's Capital Campaign. The GIVE PLUS area on the right allows you to give a recurring or one-time donation using a credit card. If you have questions or need assistance with electronic giving, please feel free to call Heather Baumann @ 223-3560. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

End of year giving: Just a quick reminder if you would like to give and have the deduction on your 2022 taxes make sure you do one of the following things:

Mail in your donation with the envelope being postmarked no later than December 31st, 2022.

Give online no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 31st, 2022

Set up a bank withdrawal to go out no later than December 31st, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

WE EXTEND OUR GONGREGATION'S SYMPATHY to the families of Annie Leno and Diede Kapsch. Please keep their families in your prayers.

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Julius & Alta Burzloff, given by family.

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM SIGN-UP - The sign-up sheet for 2023 is located in the Narthex. Please fill out a form and follow the instructions to sign up. The cost is \$250 for each Sunday. **It is helpful to the office if you are able to pay right away and fully complete the information.** This has been a great blessing for people to stay connected with worship at Trinity when they aren't able to be here in person. Thank you for the many people that have supported this ministry. Please contact Klarissa if you have any questions.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS - We are now receiving donations for our Christmas display of poinsettias. Poinsettia donations are \$15. All donations and accompanying dedications will be listed in the Christmas bulletins. Forms are available in the Narthex. Turn in a form and payment to the office or offering basket **by Friday, December 16th**. Contact Klarissa if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS BAKING NEEDED - Christmas goodies will again be shared with people on our Holiday Delivery List this year. If you are willing to share your baking, or some fruit, please bring it to the church office **no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14th**. We will gather the goodies in the Conference Room. Also, if you are able to help deliver some baked goods please let Klarissa know. Thank you for blessing others in this way for the Holiday Season!

CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP TIMES:

Christmas Eve - 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 10 p.m.
Christmas Day - 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 28 - No Worship

OFFICE CLOSED DATES:

December 23, 26, 30
January 2

CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE - Join us Sunday, December 18th @ 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll have pizza, ornament-making, cookie-decorating, hot chocolate, a photo booth and more! All are welcome! A free will offering will be taken to help cover the cost of lunch.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:

- Our Sunday Church School Christmas Program will be during worship on Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30 a.m. After worship, join us in Fellowship Hall for the Christmas Adventure!
- Wednesday Church School kids will present a Christmas Program during worship on Wednesday, December 21st @ 6 p.m. Following worship, we'll have hot chocolate & goodies in the Community Center.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING - Each Christmas, Trinity's Church Council selects a ministry to be the recipient of our Special Offering. This Christmas, Ministry on the Margins was chosen as the recipient. Ministry on the Margins is a partner ministry of Trinity Lutheran. If you would like to make a gift our Special Christmas Offering you can drop a check in the offering plate with "Special Christmas Offering" in the memo line, drop an envelope with cash in the offering plate marked "Special Christmas Offering" on the outside or drop a donation off in the church office.

STAFF TRANSITION - Trinity Lutheran has an immediate opening for a full-time Facility Manager. We are looking for an individual who is mechanically inclined, self-motivated and able to prioritize tasks, able to manage staff, contractors and volunteers, and likes working on a solid team. Contact Pastor Mark for more information or stop at the church office to drop off a resume and fill out an application.

NORTH PARKING LOT DOORS - During this staff transition, the main entrance will only be unlocked when there are at least 2 staff members present in the building. There is not a set time for this necessarily as it can change. Please call the office if you need to get in. All doors will be locked weekdays from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. for the lunch hour.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL MUSIC - There is still time to volunteer to use your music skills to enhance the music of the season! Brass musicians are especially needed. Please contact Pastor Mary Lou to discuss options and sign up!

ORGAN RECITAL - Norman Paskowsky will be presenting a recital on Sunday, December 11th @ 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will feature a wide range of pieces representing four centuries of organ music, including a piece titled "The Covid 19 Fugue" by Papademitriou, which comes highly praised by the music world. A freewill offering will be received.

THANK YOU - Christmas decorations have started to appear around the church. We have been blessed with many helping hands to get these up so far. We wish to extend a special thank you to those that have helped so far! We still have more to do. We especially need people who are able to help decorate the large tree in the Sanctuary. Please talk to Pastor Mary Lou today if you are willing to help - she has a list of potential options.

MISSOURI SLOPE ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER - With a \$100 donation, you can honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a custom-made ornament on their brand new tree in the new chapel at the Washington Nursing Facility. The ornament can then be replicated for \$50. Visit <https://mslcc.salsalabs.org/ornamentdonations/index.html> for more information.



CONNECT GROUPS - Faith and Fellowship

Sundays

Bible Basics, every Sunday @ 9:35 a.m.- 10:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Mark.

Mondays

Bible Read-Through Group, every Monday @ 7 a.m., Conference Room. Contact Bob Wefald, bobwefald@msn.com.

Ladies Study, 1st & 3rd Mondays @ 1 p.m. Contact Karen Botine, karenbotine@bis.midco.net.

Tuesdays

Quilters, every Tuesday @ 9 a.m. downstairs in the Quilters Room. Contact Cathy Nelson, scknelson@midco.net.

GIFTS Bible Study, 4th Tuesday of every month @ 6:30 p.m. in Room 212, or email Pastor Mark for a zoom link.

Wednesdays

Upstairs Video Study, every other Wednesday @ 2:30 p.m. in Room 212. Contact Larry Strand, ljstrand@bis.midco.net.

Video Study on Hebrews, every Wednesday @ 6:35 p.m. in the Conference Room. Contact Heather.

Thursdays

Circle Morning Meeting, 3rd Thursday of every month @ 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Contact Margaret Laib, marg.laib@gmail.com.

Other

Bible Journaling, next meeting is Tuesday, December 13th, at Good Shepherd Lutheran @ 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Contact Gracia.

Handy Men, create baptism boxes @ various times. Contact Mike Ranum, msranum@bis.midco.net.

Beer & Hymns, (no meeting in December) at the Bismarck Amvets @ 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. All ages welcome.