

***Third Sunday in Advent  
December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012***

Welcome to worship. The Lord is coming. Rejoice!  
If you are a guest with us, please sign our register located at  
the back of church. We invite you to worship with us again!



**Our Worship**

**Order of Service:** “The Common Service” without Holy Communion, can also be found on page 15 in *Christian Worship* if you would like to follow the music there.

**HYMN:** 11

**STAND**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** (Sung) Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## **LORD HAVE MERCY**

**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: (Sung) Amen.**

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **GLORY BE TO GOD**

**C: (Sung) Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray.

**M:** Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (Sung) Amen**

## **THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Lesson: Nehemiah 8:9-18 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.<sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”<sup>11</sup> The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve.”<sup>12</sup> Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.<sup>13</sup> On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law.<sup>14</sup> They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month<sup>15</sup> and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths”—as it is written.<sup>16</sup> So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the

house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. <sup>17</sup> The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. <sup>18</sup> Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** 130 on page 114



**Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7**

**(NIV)** *Even though St. Paul was in prison and had endured many hardships, he could still rejoice and give us the encouragement to do the same. Since God's forgiveness is constant, our rejoicing will also be constant.*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!  
<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**M:** Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia! (Matthew 11:10)

**C: (Sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*STAND*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

**C: (Sung) Glory be to you, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 (NIV)** *The Judgment is coming. Those who repent rejoice in God's good news of forgiveness. This joy will show itself in lives filled with good works.*

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." <sup>15</sup> The

people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

**C: (Sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated 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.

*BE SEATED*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 15**

**SERMON TEXT: Philippians 4:4-7**

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, REJOICE!”

*STAND*

**C: (Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**

*STAND*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**(Saturday)**

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.

Or

**(Sunday)**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*BE SEATED*

**HYMN: 705**

*STAND*

**M:** Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (Sung) Amen.**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: (Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN: 27**



*We welcome those visiting us this weekend. If you are a resident of this area and have no church home, we invite you to consider Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, town of Liberty. If you are interested, please speak to the pastor. We pray the blessing of God's Holy Spirit upon his Word, which you have heard with us today. Come worship with us again!*

## **Announcements:**

### **Organist**

Our organist this weekend is Tammie Nagel. We thank her for beautifying our worship by her playing.

### **Prayer Requests –**

- Jessica Johnson, who is studying to be a veterinarian and has one year left in Scotland, and is also engaged to be married on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Congratulations to Jessica! Almighty God, we ask your continued protection to Jessica overseas in body and soul and let her be Jesus' ambassador.

### **Thank You**

Thanks to all who gave for the Peter's Pantry collection. The bins were filled each week so we thank the Lord for your generosity!

### **No Saturday Service Next Two Weeks**

Because of the extra services the next two weeks, we will not be having a worship service on Saturday, December 22 or Saturday, December 29. We will still have Sunday worship on both of these weeks (Dec. 23 & Dec. 30) and the other services on the calendar. Only the Saturday services are being cancelled for the next two weeks. We apologize for the short notice, please spread the word.

## **No Thursday Night Bible Class till January**

The Bible Class group Thursday night decided we will not have class on Thursday, December 27. Our next class will be Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, where we'll look at the second half of, "How Can They Teach That about Abortion and Early Life Issues?"

## **An Invitation**

The S.T.O.R.M. (the youth group from St. John's Newtonburg) has invited teens from our youth group and congregation to Cosmic bowling on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. They are meeting at St. John's at 7:30 and the price is \$4.50.

## **Forward In Christ**

The Forward In Christ is also available. The subscription price is \$11.00. There is a signup sheet in the narthex; please sign your name and make check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and place in the church secretaries mailbox. The last day to signup is January 25. Thank you!

## **Reminders**

- Our church services are available on DVD. Ask Pastor.
- Our church website is [trinityliberty.org](http://trinityliberty.org)
- The Trinity Ladies Circle has cards for sale on the lower level, religious cards for birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, etc.

## **MLHS**

Manitowoc Lutheran High School is seeking applications for the part-time position of evening custodian to assist with general custodial duties and building lock-up. More information is available on the website - [www.mlhslancers.org](http://www.mlhslancers.org) or by calling the school office. Applications must be received at Manitowoc Lutheran High School by January 2, 2013.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Sat.15<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 p.m.	Worship
<b>Sun.16<sup>th</sup></b>	8:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class
	8:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:00 a.m.	WCUB Radio Broadcast
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Practice
<b>Wed.19<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00 p.m.	Catechism
	6:30 p.m.	Trinity Teens
<b>Thur.20<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30 p.m.	Choir
<b>Sun.23<sup>rd</sup></b>	8:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class
	8:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion/ Sunday School sings
	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Eve Practice
<b>Mon.24<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Children's Service
<b>Tues.25<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Festival Worship

### **Ushers**

December 15<sup>th</sup> Larry Hochkammer, Peter Liermann

December 16<sup>th</sup> Gary Vetter, David Petersen, James Glaeser, Paul Nagel

December 23<sup>rd</sup> Ron Kasten (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Wayne Otto, Len Arnold

### **Greeters**

December 16<sup>th</sup> David & Tara Mellstrom

December 23<sup>rd</sup> Cheri Hebert & Jennifer Pope

December 30<sup>th</sup> Earl & Lois Glaeser

### **Altar Guild: December– Group 1:**

*Helen Isaacson, Darlene Kiesow, Donna Nagel, Elaine Petersen*



## *A Happy Birthday to...*

12/15 Alex Free

12/15 Elaine Sieker - 94 yrs. Young

12/17 Denise Preston

12/21 Meadow Drake

12/21 Joe Drake

12/23 A.J. Kenneke

12/24 Lorena Nagel - 99 yrs. Young

## *Happy Anniversary to....*



*\*If you have a December birthday or anniversary that was missed or listed incorrectly please let us know so we can update church records! Thanks!*