



The Lord
Descends; Our
Praise Ascends

December 17, 2023

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

- **Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!
- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: We welcome Jesus with pure hearts and clean hands, the fruit of true repentance. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 391 "God Loved the World So that He Gave" verses 1-4



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the



Son the lost to save That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.

STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

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: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY - *KYRIE*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of eight staves of music. The first seven staves are in common time (C) and end with a double bar line. The eighth staff is in 3/4 time and continues the melody. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece concludes with a key signature change to one flat (F) in the final staff.

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. 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: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10 and 11

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.

He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰ I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.

My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.

With a robe of righteousness he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

¹¹ For as the earth produces its growth,
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
in the presence of all the nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 71

Read responsively

M: In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

C: let me never be put to shame.

M: Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;

C: turn your ear to me and save me.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;

C: for you are my rock and my fortress.

M: Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,

C: and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

M: Even when I am old and gray,

C: do not forsake me, O God,

M: till I declare your power to the next generation,

C: your might to all who are to come.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Christians wait for God's salvation with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. In other words, they live in the righteousness they have received from Christ.

Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil.

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

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*)

STAND

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist announces the Savior's arrival.

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²² Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴ They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Rejoice in Jesus Always"

HYMN OF THE DAY: 38 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" verses 1-4



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -
sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
ior be From all your sins to set you free.
and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.

SERMON

TEXT: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10 and 11

Theme: "The Lord Descends; Our Praise Ascends"

STAND

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register in the pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!

Eternal Father, through the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you directed the eyes of your people to the advent of the Savior. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism. Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M. Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 4 "Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
heart to you; here, Lord, a - bid! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
The end of all our woe he brings; There -
The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: MILWAUKEE (88 88 88 66) August Lemke, 1820–1913.

STAND

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 19 "O Lord, How Shall I meet You" verses 1-3



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion
 deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Sermon Notes Puzzle & Coloring Pages Available for Kids!

Puzzle and coloring pages are available for all kids on the table in the Narthex along with pencils and crayons. Word puzzles, games & space for drawings are all included in these sheets.

Catechism and Bible Class Schedules

There will be no catechesis or Bible class on Sundays, December 24 and 31. Both will resume on January 7.

Children's Christmas Worship Service TODAY

The Children's Christmas Worship Service, led by our Sunday School students, will be the 11:00 service today.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Schedule

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, worship will be held at 5 and 7pm on December 24, with no morning services. Christmas Day worship will be at 10am and will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday School Project: Collection for HUGS Ends TODAY

Today is the final day for the Sunday School service project of collection for HUGS of Warm in Woodbridge. Cold weather clothing of all kinds and hygiene items will be gratefully received in a box in the narthex, and then passed on to HUGS of Warm in Woodbridge to distribute to those in need in Northern Virginia.

Wine and Word Bible Study – January 4

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Our Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library always welcomes donations of books and food! If the library outside is full, you can place donations in the white plastic bin in the Fellowship Hall right beside the door to the hallway.

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.