

December 15, 2024
11:00 Service



Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

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: The children of Trinity's Sunday School tell the birth of our Savior.

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PASTOR'S GREETING

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.**

PART ONE: Christmas Joy

Narrator: Claire Ohlendorf

HYMN: 62, Joy to the World

Sunday school sings verse 1; congregation joins in verses 2-4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
make his bless - ings flow Far as the
of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

PART TWO: Christmas Faithfulness

Narrator: Emmett McKeown

Angel: Abby Kovaciny

Mary: Mary McKnight

HYMN: 47, Behold, Branch Is Growing, verses 2 and 5

Congregation sings both verses



2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In
5 O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y, Who



words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -
felt our hu - man woes, O Sav - ior, King of



fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through
glo - ry, Who con - quered all our foes, Bring



God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is
us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of



giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
heav - en And to the end - less day.

Text: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

PART THREE: Christmas Peace

Narrator: Kenneth McKnight

Angels: Mara Douglas, Edward Kilpatrick, Taimen Kilpatrick

Shepherds: Avery Lutz, Emma Tsuyi, Makayla Hendricks

Mary: Mary McKnight


Joseph: Mike Popelier

HYMN: 61, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Congregation sings all verses



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of




new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

PART FOUR: Christmas Salvation

Narrator: Jack Ohlendorf

Mary: Mary McKnight

Joseph: Mike Popelier

Simeon: Carice Hendricks

HYMN: 38, From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, verses 1, 3, 13, and 15

Congregation sings all verses

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.

15 Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

PART FIVE: Christmas Worship

Narrator: Claire Ohlendorf

Herod: Jack Ohlendorf

Wise Men: John Hendriks, Avery Lutz, Carice Hendricks

PASTOR'S PRAYER AND BLESSING

HYMN: 68, Away in a Manger

Sung by Sunday School



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.
Tune: CRADLE SONG (11 11 11 11) William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921.

Thanks to our wonderful Sunday School students and teachers, to the parents and friends who helped them practice, to directors Daniel Kovaciny and Patrick Proksch, and to God for blessing us with all these people and their talents!

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Paul Jenkins: revpauljenkins@yahoo.com, (309) 433-5807

Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org, (703) 615-9320

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Advent and Christmas Worship Information

A brief devotion will follow our remaining midweek Advent supper this Wednesday, December 18. The potluck supper starts at 6, with doors opening around 5:30. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship with Communion is at 10:00.

Women's Bible Study - January 11

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll be discussing chapter four of "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – on Break until January 16

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. 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

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

November Attendance

3rd: Worship: 41+38=79; Bible class: 38

10th: 42+41=83; 39

17th: 30+38=68; 30

24th: 45+31=76; 28

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

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



Rejoice

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20240228/>

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings.

Romans 5:3

“Yippee! I get to go to the doctor today and get a shot!”

“Yes! I’m so excited. I get to go to the dentist and have a tooth pulled out.”

“Woohoo! Our teacher is going to give us a surprise test!”

All of those things sound silly, don’t they? Who would ever be happy about getting a painful shot? Who would celebrate going to the dentist? Who wants to take a surprise test?

In our reading for today, the apostle Paul said something that sounds just about as silly. “We... rejoice in our sufferings.” That doesn’t make sense. Why would we be happy about the things we suffer?

Paul explains. God promises to use the painful things in our lives for our good. Sometimes things that hurt are actually good for us. When the doctor gives you a shot, it’s to help you be healthy. When the dentist pulls a tooth, it’s so that your teeth will be straight. When your teacher gives you a test, it’s to help you learn.

At the time, it’s hard. It’s not fun. It can be painful, but in the end, it’s good for us.

God promises that if he allows something painful in our lives, he will make sure that it is for our good in one way or another. Like Paul says here, the painful things in our lives often teach us lessons. They teach us patience. They build character. They teach us to trust in God.

Because we know that they are good for us, Paul says that we can rejoice in our sufferings. That doesn’t mean you have to jump up and down shouting, “Yippee! Woohoo!” when you are sick or hurting. It’s okay to be sad. It’s okay to cry because it hurts.

Rejoicing in your sufferings means that you can be happy even in the hard times because you know that it will all work out for your good. It means you can have peace, even in the middle of the storm. It means you can thank God even for the hard times because you know they are hidden blessings.

But that’s hard to do. Pray that God helps you to trust that all the painful and hard things in your life will work out for your good. Ask him to help you rejoice, even in your sufferings.

(Continued on Next Page)

Questions to Consider

- To rejoice means to be happy and celebrate. What are some of the good things God gives you that you can rejoice about?
- What painful thing did Jesus have to go through, but God worked it out for the good of all people?
- The word justify is used a lot in these verses. Discuss with your family what that means. How does that impact you?
- What does it mean in verse 10 that we have been reconciled to God? How does that word impact you?
- Agree or disagree. Because Jesus won for us a place in heaven and God promises to make everything in our lives work out for our good, we have nothing to be sad about.
- Apply today's devotion. The next time you find yourself struggling, why should you remember to rejoice in your sufferings?

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.