

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Advent 1 - November 28, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #702 - "Prepare the Royal Highway"

**Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!**

**God's people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! SHout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him!
All nations, now adore him!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!**

Confession of Sins:

P: 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: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Listen, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah. In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line. He will establish justice and righteousness on earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. This is what she will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness. (EHV)

Psalm 25

Refrain: To you, O Lord I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

**To you, O LORD, I lift 'up my soul;
In you I trust, 'O my God.**

**Remember, O LORD, your great mer'cy and love,
For they are 'from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my re'bellious ways;
According to your love remember me, for you are 'good, O LORD.**

Refrain: To you, O Lord I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

**Turn to me and be gra'cious to me,
For I am lonely and af'flicted.**

**Look upon my affliction and 'my distress
And take away 'all my sins.**

**Guard my life and 'rescue me,
For I take ref'uge in you.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: To you, O Lord I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith. May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for

the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.” He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” (EHV)

The 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.

Hymn #2 - “*Savior of the Nation, Come*”

**Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin’s Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!**

**From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell -
High the song of triumph swell!**

**Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.**

**The Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 "Live In Faith And Love"**

You and I all live in the presence of **God**. What does that actually **mean**? For one thing it means to be **aware** of Him, and to know that He sees and hears **all** of our words and actions. Of course, those words and actions don't always **line up** with what **God** would **like** to see in our lives. But the LORD is a **good** and **gracious** God, and the heavenly Father sent His Son, **Jesus**, to **pay** for all those improper words and actions, and to keep us **safe** from all **harm** and **danger**. The writer of Psalm 73 spoke for **every** believer when he wrote, "*I am always **with you**. You **hold me by my right hand**.*" Through the merits of **Jesus** you and I have been **blessed** to be in a very **close relationship** with God - a relationship which is described as a **mother** or **father** holding the **hand** of their little child as they go for a **walk**. We know that we are always physically and spiritually **safe** in the hands of the LORD.

But the LORD will make His presence known in **another** way too. On the Last Day the LORD will **physically return** to the world to **judge** all people. His judgment will be **just** and **fair**, and it will be based on what we **believe**. Those who put their trust for salvation in **Him** will be taken into heavenly **glory**. While those who put their trust in **anyone** or **anything** else, will be sent away to suffer eternal **separation** from God in **hell**.

Knowing that the LORD takes care of all our needs **now** - both physical and spiritual - and knowing that He will **return** again to judge all people, will certainly

have an effect on how we **live**. That was certainly the case for the Apostle Paul, and he wanted it to be so for the **Thessalonians** as well. So in our text for today, Paul reveals what it **means** to **Live In Faith And Love**.

In this first **letter** to the Thessalonians the Apostle Paul expressed his **feelings** toward them. He wrote, *“How can we thank God **enough** for you in return for all the **joy** we have in the presence of our God **because** of you?”* We were just privileged to experience another national day of **Thanksgiving**, and giving **thanks** to **God** for our fellow **believers** should **always** be on our radar. Here we read that the Apostle Paul was **ecstatic** when he heard about the **firm faith** of the Thessalonians, and he **expressed** his joy in a prayer of **thanksgiving** to the LORD. In fact, that was something he did **daily**. Paul told the Thessalonians, *“**Night and day** we are praying earnestly to see you in **person** and to supply what is **lacking** in your faith.”* Paul was very **happy** that the Thessalonians had continued to have a **firm faith** in Jesus, even after **he** and his co-worker, **Silas**, had been forced to **leave** their city. Now he earnestly wanted to visit the Thessalonians **again**, so he could teach them even **more** about God’s Word, so their **faith** in Jesus would become even **stronger**.

But Paul knew that another visit wasn’t going to **happen** without **God’s help**. So he prayed, *“May God our Father **himself** and our Lord **Jesus** direct our way to you.”* Paul had only spent **three weeks** in the city of Thessalonica, preaching about **Jesus**, and explaining that the **Christ** had to **suffer**, and **rise** from the dead. But even after such a short period of time, a large group of **believers** formed in the city, and things were going pretty **well** - that is, until **persecution** broke out. The Jews became **jealous**, stirred up a **mob**, and started a **riot** in the city. As a result, Paul and Silas had to **flee** from Thessalonica.

For a long time Paul **worried** about what would happen to the Christians who were **left behind** in the city. But then he got some **good news**. Timothy reported that the Thessalonian Christians had remained **solid** in their faith in Jesus. Nevertheless, Paul couldn’t stop **praying** for his friends. Although their faith in Jesus was **strong**, it was still **incomplete**. Paul saw the Thessalonians as a glass that was still only **half full**, and for that reason he prayed, *“May the Lord increase your **love** and make it **overflow** for each **other** and for **all** people, just as **ours** does for you.”* Paul wanted these **half-full** Thessalonians to **overflow** with love in the same way that **his** love overflowed for **them**.

From these words of Paul we learn that **Living In Faith** gives us a great **privilege** - the privilege of **praying** to God for one another. That was not **always**

the case. In Psalm 24 the Psalmist asks, “*Who may **go up** to the mountain of the Lord? Who may **stand** in his holy place? He who has **clean** hands and a **pure** heart, whose soul is **not** set on what is **false**, who does **not swear** deceitfully.*” As we look at ourselves according to our **sinful nature**, that’s **not us**. Our hands are **not** clean, our hearts are **not** pure, and we have been **false** and **deceitful**. And because our God is **pure** and **holy**, we can’t enter into His presence covered with sin. Our sins deny us **access** to God, and on our **own** we don’t have the necessary **password** to **gain** access to Him.

The **only** reason we have the **privilege** of praying to God is because of His **Son**. The Father’s only Son became one of **us**, lived a life of **innocence**, and then offered that innocent life on the **cross** to pay for the sins of the world. By His sacrifice Jesus removed the **barrier** of sin, and won for us the privilege to approach **God** in prayer. It’s a blessing which became ours in our **baptism**. Paul told the Ephesians, “*Christ **loved** the church and gave himself **up** for her to make her **holy**, **cleaning** her with the washing of **water** in connection with the **Word**.*” Because of **Jesus** we have the **privilege** to pray to God for **ourselves** and for **one another** - anytime and anywhere. **Praying** for one another is a part of **Living In Love**.

Jesus invites us to step **away** from all the public **commotion** which is so **prevalent** at this time of year, and to find a **quiet** place - a place to get together one-on-one with our heavenly Father, and to **talk** to Him in prayer as the Apostle Paul did. Paul prayed, “*May the Lord increase your **love** and make it **overflow** for each other and for all people, just as **ours** does for **you**, so that he may establish your hearts as **blameless** in **holiness** before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.*”

What do **our** prayer lists look like? When we are **Living In Love** we’ll be **exercising** our privilege of praying for **others**. What are some of the things we can **ask** for them? While we certainly don’t want to **omit** asking for **physical** blessings for them, we really need to **concentrate** on asking for **spiritual** blessings. We want God to clear the way for them to hear His **Word** - to **come** to faith, or to **strengthen** the faith they already **have**. In fact, **Paul’s** prayer for the Thessalonians would be a **great** one for us to offer: “*May the Lord increase your **love** and make it **overflow** for each other and for all people.*” God gave us His **Son** - He saw to it that we were **baptized**, and filled us with the **Holy Spirit** - He continues to take care of **all** our needs day after day - and His **love** just keeps on **coming**, wave, after wave, after wave - **overflowing** love. Wouldn’t it be **great** if our love for one

another would **overflow** in the same way? Let's strive to speak the truth of God's Word from the heart, so that others can **join** us to **Live In Faith And Love**.

And let's never forget that Jesus is coming **back** to our world, and the **time** of His return is **near**. Paul prayed that his fellow believers would be **blameless** on that Day. The only way for that to even be **possible**, is through our Lord **Jesus**. When Jesus lived here on the earth, no one could **convict** Him of a single **sin**. The **death** He **died** was to atone for **our** sins. He **bought** and **paid for** the lives of **every** human being. We **belong** to Him, and He wants us to **stay with Him** forever. Jesus said, "*Remain in **me**, and I am going to remain in **you**.*" Jesus **has** us, and He's **not** going to let us **go**. So when Jesus **returns**, we will stand **blameless** in the presence of God. That fact will **encourage** us to **grow** in our Christian living - to **Live In Faith And Love**. Amen.

Prayers:

O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in this **Advent** Season when we are reminded so much of the precious gift of **salvation** which Your divine love has given us, stir up in our hearts a deep sense of **brotherly love**, and cause us to be concerned about the welfare of **others**. Give each of us a spirit of **generosity** toward those who are in need.

Holy Trinity, **bless** us - the lambs and sheep under Your care - with every needful blessing. Grant us **good health** this winter season, and keep every kind of disease and illness from **harming** us. Watch over our **children**, and protect them from all harm and danger. Keep the **aged** and those who are **feeble** under Your mercy and special care. Give aid to the **needy**, and bring comfort to the **distressed**. When the winter weather becomes **severe**, keep us **safe** and **warm**. Protect us at all times in our **travels**. Stand guard over our **homes, schools, churches**, and places of **employment**. Grant these and all other needful blessings to us according to Your good pleasure.

And finally, **forgive** our many sins, for it was because of them that Jesus had to come down among us to **live** and to **die**. Enable Your **Word** to dwell in us **richly** in all wisdom, and grant us continual growth in **grace**, and in the **knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung to "Away in a Manger")

**Our Father in heaven all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same**

**By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us; be near.
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Hymn #134 - "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice"

**O bride of Christ, rejoice!
Exultant raise your voice
To hail the day of glory
Foretold in sacred story.
Hosanna! Now adore him;
With praises bow before him!**

**He wears no kingly crown,
Yet as a King is known;
Though not arrayed in splendor,
He shall make death surrender.
Hosanna! Now adore him;
With praises bow before him!**

**The weak and timid find
How meek he is and kind;
He graciously will hear you
And be forever near you.
Hosanna! Now adore him;
With praises bow before him!**

**E'en babes with one accord
With you shall praise the Lord
And ev'ry gentile nation
Respond with exultation:**

**Hosanna! Now adore him;
With praises bow before him!**

**Then go your Lord to meet;
Strew palm leaves at his feet;
Your garments spread before him,
And honor and adore him.
Hosanna! Sing the story
Of Christ, the King of glory!**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: 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.**

Hymn #12 - *"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"*

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the captives to release,
In Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst;
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**