

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
and Lutheran Campus Ministry*

*300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC
919-942-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org*



*Holy Communion Setting Seven
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016—8:30am*

Materials for worship are found in this bulletin or in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Page numbers, such as “p. 172,” refer to the small page numbers in the front of the book. Hymn numbers, marked with a # sign, refer to the large numbers in the back of the book.

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the common cup or individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) grape juice. Gluten, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut, corn free communion wafers are available in covered glass dishes on stands near the front of each communion station. Place one in the palm of your hand, cover with the other hand (palm down) and your hand will be blessed during distribution of communion. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing.

+GATHERING+

Welcome

Prelude

God's Love Made Visible

Dave and Iola Brubeck

*God's love made visible!
Incomprehensible!
He is invincible!
His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful,
Blessings uncountable,
Make death surmountable!
His love shall reign!*

*Joyfully pray for peace and good will.
All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way.
Praise him for every day.
Open your hearts and pray.
His love shall reign!*

*God gave his son to us
To dwell as one of us,
His blessing unto us!
His love shall reign!
To him all honor bring,
Heaven and earth will sing,
Praising our Lord and King!
His love shall reign!*

*Open all doors the day of his birth,
All of good will inherit the earth,
His star will always be guiding humanity
Throughout eternity!
His love shall reign!*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Wreath-Lighting Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Verses 5-6

Hymn #257

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time,
**we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hymn #263

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Please be seated.

+WORD+

Children’s Message

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The assembly may respond **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

#146:5-10

Read responsively.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The assembly may respond **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

p. 179

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Announcement: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon

Pastor Will Rose

Hymn of the Day

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Hymn #250

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition, the assembly responds, **Hear our prayer.***

Peace

+MEAL+

Offering

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

arr. David W. Music

Many of our members give online, but we continue to pass the offering plate to reflect on the ways in which we can return thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

*How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Can we find the stable room
Lit by a star?
Can we see the little child?
Is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?*

*May we stroke the creatures there?
Oxen or sheep?
May we peek like them
And see Jesus asleep?
If we touch his tiny hand
Will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far
Just for his sake?*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In your tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with thee there.
-Frances Chesterton*

Setting the Table

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

Hymn #247

Prayer after Offering

Great Thanksgiving

p. 180

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion

Music during distribution, as time allows:

"Lamb of God"

p. 182

"Wait for the Lord"

Hymn #262

"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"

Hymn #261

"He Came Down"

Hymn #253

Prayer after Communion

+SENDING+

Blessing

Hymn

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

Hymn #266

Announcements

Dismissal

Postlude