

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
and Lutheran Campus Ministry
300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC
919-042-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org



Holy Communion Setting Seven
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017—8:30 and 11:00am

Materials for worship are found in this bulletin or in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. 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, HTLC 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. Allergen-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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (11:00)

PRELUDE

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.

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: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Hymn #240

Verses 1-3

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

+ WORD +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

PSALMODY: 126

Read or sung responsively.

When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great | things for them."

The Lord has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 179

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-23

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark Coulter

HYMN OF THE DAY: Light Dawns on a Weary World

Hymn #726

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

PEACE

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn (8:30)*

Carl Schalk

*As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light,
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright,
Till shades of fear are gone.*

*As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,
We long to see your day arise, whole and wise,
O lucent Morning Star.*

*As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,
May we your healing light release, living peace,
Unto your holy dawn.*

*Shine your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,
That through us stream your holiness, bright and blest;
Come dawn, O Sun of grace.
-Susan Palo Cherwien*

TABLE-SETTING HYMN: 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:

Lamb of God

p. 182

“Wait for the Lord”

Hymn #262

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #257

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

Savior of the nations, come!

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Fling Wide the Door

Hymn #259

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Parish Pastor	Rev. William N. Rose III prwill@holytrinitychapelhill.org	803.237.6356
Campus Pastor	Rev. Mark A. Coulter prmark@holytrinitychapelhill.org	919.960.9306
Cantor	Laura Alexander lbuff@holytrinitychapelhill.org	919.942.2678
Faith Formation	Holly Shipley, Minister of Faith Formation hshipley@holytrinitychapelhill.org	859.433.5102
Church Administrator	Heidi Rueckel htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org	919.942.2678
Bookkeeper	Tom Alexander talexander@holytrinitychapelhill.org	919.942.2678
Financial Records Assistant	Kathy Austin	919.942.2678

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Frank Perry
Pastor Emeritus in Chaplaincy Rev. Claude Deal

Ministry Center and Mailing Address 300 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Worship Center 227 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Office: 919.942.2678
Fax: 919.942.4581

htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org
www.holytrinitychapelhill.org
Twitter @HTLCchapelhill
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/htlclcm>
HTLC Youth on Instagram – htlc_youth

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday — 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Closed Friday; in case of emergency, call either Pastor directly
Bulletin deadline: Tuesday, 10:00 am