



## Third Sunday in Advent

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**AS WE GATHER**

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

**ANTHEM (10:30am)**      **Lift Up Your Heads (by John L. Bell)**      *TLO Adult Choir*

**INVOCATION** (Remain Seated)

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**      *John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5*

- P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means "rejoice," as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
- C **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!
- C **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**
- P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
- C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**
- P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
- C **and His faithfulness to all generations."**

## HYMN

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 357, vs. 5–7

### \*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Philippians 4:4–7*

- P As we gather today to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today's Epistle, we hear, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."
- C **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**
- P "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."
- C **We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**
- P "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."
- C **We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- C **Amen.**

### \*KYRIE

- C **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### \*SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments  
against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for  
the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer  
reproach.  
<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes," says the LORD.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Philippians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM (10:30am)

**God Loves Me Dearly**

*TLO Sunday School Choir*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### \*VERSE

*Matthew 11:10b*

- P Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
C **who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

### \*HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 7:18–35*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." <sup>29</sup>(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

<sup>31</sup>"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'

<sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'

<sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN

## HARK THE GLAD SOUND

LSB 349

## SERMON

## Rejoice in the Lord Always

**\*NICENE CREED**—*See projection screen or inside back cover of the hymnal*

## \*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Philippians 4:4*

After our petitions:

P We rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

## OFFERING

### \*PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

**\*SANCTUS**—*sung; tune LSB 195*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Hebrews 12:2, adapt.*

**\*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**\*PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,...So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**—*See projection screen or inside back cover of the hymnal*

**\*PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

**\*AGNUS DEI**—*sung; tune LSB 198*

**DISTRIBUTION** Distribution is at the rail, with both common cup and individual cup; de-alcoholized wine in center of tray. Gluten free wafers available by signifying to pastor/elder. Please use the pew cards to register your attendance at Holy Communion.

**HYMN**

**COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE**

**LSB 347**

**HYMN**

**IN THEE IS GLADNESS**

**LSB 818**

**\*NUNC DIMITTIS**—*sung; tune LSB 199*

**\*POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*John 1:5, 9*

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**HYMN TO DEPART**

**JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE**

**LSB 803**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## Serving our Lord

		December 15, 2024	December 22, 2024
Musician		Diane Streich	Marsha Workman
Cantor		Andy Koch	Dave Workman
Altar Guild		Nancy Strand and Sharon Drews	Nancy Strand and Sharon Drews
Elder	8am	Bill Breitinger and Sam Erdman	9:00am Andy Olson
	10:30am	Matthew Berg and Kurt Vallin	
Reader	8am	Matthew Boll	9:00am Keith Prusak
	10:30am	Matthew Berg	
Usher Team	8am	Sam Erdman	9:00am Brian Nack
	10:30am	Open	
Greeter(s)	8am	Open	Open
	10:30am	Open	
Acolyte	8am	Lily Olander, Ian Olander	9:00am Isaac Koch, Beth Koch
	10:30am	Mason Kolb	
Projection	8am	Matthew Boll	Open
	10:30am	Tim Morris	
Live Stream	8am	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas
Coffee Hour	9:15am	Open	Open



### Thank you

Thank you to our Sunday school students for sharing their music in 10:30am worship. Thank you, too, for our volunteer Sunday school teachers and staff for their dedication to our Sunday school program, teaching each week and diligently praying for those in their classrooms. May our students always remember that the Babe born in the manger grew up, died and rose for their sins because He loves them and wants to spend eternity with them!



### Pizza and Caroling

**TODAY! Sunday, December 15 | 11:30am | All ages**



Come enjoy pizza lunch after the late service today. Then bring Christmas joy to TLO members in homes and in Care Centers by forming caroling groups that make up to 4 stops. You didn't sign up? No problem—come anyway; we'll have plenty of food, laughter and fun for all!

**COMING UP AT TLO — December 15, 2024 — December 26, 2024****THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Sun	8:00*am	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15am	Education Hour for all ages
	10:30am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday school students sing
	11:45am	Pizza and Caroling - you're invited!
	12:30am	Peniel Evangelical Church
	6:00pm	Men's Basketball
Mon	10:00am	Adult Bible Class; studying Proverbs
	6:30pm	Trail Life Troop 2950
Tue	10:30am	TLO leads worship at Lexington Pointe Senior Living
	6:30pm	Board of Christian Education
	7:00pm	Dessert and (optional) cookie exchange
Wed	6:30am	Men's Bible study
	4:00pm	Midweek Confirmation Class
	5:15pm	Soup Supper served by WoW Bible study
	6:30*pm	Advent worship
	7:30pm	Choir rehearsal
Thur	6:00pm	Peniel events
Fri	9:00am	Women of the Word (WoW) Bible study
Sat	2:00pm	Peniel events

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Sun	9:00*am	Worship
	10:15am	Adult Bible Study; no Sunday school
	12:30am	Peniel Evangelical Church
	6:00pm	Men's Basketball
Mon	No School; church office closed	
Tue	3:30pm	Family Worship
	7:00*pm	Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
Wed	9:00*am	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Commuion
Thur	No School; Church office open	

\*worship online at [www.trinityloneoak.org](http://www.trinityloneoak.org)**Poinsettias for Christmas**

You can still give a poinsettia order form to Lana today, if you missed the deadline.





### **Christmas bags for TLO members**

**Begins today, December 15 | take and deliver at your convenience**

Pick up a prepared bag(s) from the narthex and deliver it to the address on the bag. You will deliver Christmas goodies and smiles while receiving much more in return.

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### **Christmas Dessert and optional Cookie Exchange**

**This Tuesday, December 17 | 7:00pm | Lana Siewert-Olson's home**

Come and enjoy dessert and conversation with your TLO friends. RSVP to Leann Becker, 612-327-5335 or Lana Siewert-Olson, 651-453-563 (be sure to let us know if you would like a ride) and if you'd like to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring 10 dozen cookies to share.

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### **TLO's Giving Tree**

Brighten Christmas for yourself and others by buying a gift for someone you don't know! Gift suggestions and full instructions are on the tree in the narthex, and gifts are due back December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Scrip is a win-win**

Need gift cards for Christmas gift giving? Get your shopping done and help TLO's budget at the same time by purchasing gift cards through our scrip program. Orders placed today will be ready for pick up from TLO December 19. See Leann Becker for more info.

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### **Concordia Academy Christmas Concert**

CA's 2024 Christmas Concert, "How Great Our Joy!" is Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 pm. Tickets are available at the box office before the concert.

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### **GodConnects Faith Formation Class**

**Saturdays, January 11, 18, 25 | 9:00am-12noon**

Plain language and helpful illustrations present God's work of salvation in a concise manner. This series is ideal for those with questions about sin, judgment, redemption, Jesus, the believer's life, and more.

## WEEKLY DEPOSITS: December 8, 2024

General Fund Income:			
	Current and Mission Weekly Offering - supporting staff and operations	\$	26,514.50
(Our offering budget is \$9,330 per week)			
	Building Reserve Fund - supporting monthly mortgage payments	\$	1,135.00
(Our offering budget is \$675 for per week)			
	Tuition	\$	7,280.85
	1883 School Annual Fund - supporting TLO School	\$	1,560.00
	Church and school fees	\$	3,180.86
	<b>Subtotal General Fund Income</b>	\$	<b>39,671.21</b>
Special Purpose Income (not available for general fund spending)			
	YTF2 - Yesterday, Today, Forever 2 initiative	\$	335.30
	Acorn Scholarship Fund - supporting TLO School student tuition	\$	N/A
	Chapel offerings - supporting Dakota Woodlands, Eagan	\$	33.34
	Sunday school - supporting Rev. Tom Park in Taiwan	\$	4.61
	General support of Rev. Tom Park in Taiwan; Dec. 4 Advent Meal	\$	287.00
	Fire Alarm System replacement	\$	N/A
	Concordia Fund - supporting TLO members attending a Concordia	\$	N/A
	Young Investors stamps through Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$	222.00
	<b>Subtotal Special Fund Income</b>	\$	<b>882.25</b>



### Birthdays this week

Dec 15 Luna Wong  
 Dec 17 Michelle Nadeau, Wendy Rueger  
 Dec 18 Kurt Vallin, Amelia Volkert  
 Dec 19 Teri Garrity  
 Dec 20 Galata Benya  
 Dec 21 Elizabeth Berg

### Anniversaries this week

Dec 18 Graig-Jay and Marie Lumives



**Calendars, offering envelopes, congregational directory ...these are all waiting for you in the narthex—pick up yours today!**

## Remember in Prayer



### Mission Field:

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) has 115 field missionaries that it supports in some way. Rev. Tom Park, serving in Taiwan, is special to TLO, and we are supporting him with prayer and financial gifts. Please pray for ALL the missionaries working on behalf of the Gospel through the LCMS.

### Blessings and Thanksgiving:

- Vanessa Mariah, newest grandchild of Al and Linnea born December 12 to Travis and Pearla; praise God for this healthy little girl
- We rejoice with Gage Gustafson and Mady Urman united in marriage by Pastor Kroonblawd Saturday, December 14 in Hastings

### Those with Health Concerns:

Hospitalized, in rehab, or on hospice

- Joanne Clark, recovering from extensive surgery December 13

Dealing with health concerns:

- Eddie Burdick's genetic brain disease is progressing, and symptoms are worsening
- Pam Burdick, hospitalized this week; colon cancer surgery scheduled for January 15
- Dixie Cliff
- Teresa Dornseif, sister-in-law of Alice, recovering from ankle reconstruction surgery
- Gloria, Jim Kohn's sister-in-law, continued prayers as she goes through chemo
- Silas Kohn, undergoing treatment for LCH until August 2025
- Joseph Labhart (Flannery's grandson) ongoing health concerns
- Marilou Larson, close cousin of Alice Dornseif, autoimmune liver issues
- David Nystrom - godson of Alice - recovering at home
- Sharon Phelps, mom of Cindy Rahn
- Sally Pieper, recovering after surgery
- Samantha, granddaughter of Al and Linnea, and her son, Keaton in an auto accident
- Jeff Schaaf, moved to Benedictine Assisted Living
- Joanie Wachter, recovering after knee replacement surgery, please continue to pray!
- Pastor Don Wilke, former TLO pastor, recovering after a serious fall

### Ongoing Prayers

- For our members and friends in care facilities or homebound  
Donine Leatherby  
Char Tim
- Ryan Kroonblawd - 2nd Year Seminarian - Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO



### Our weekly memory verse:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand. **Phil 4:4-5**



## Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our pastor, a greeter or an usher. We love to make new friends!

**For those with small children**, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children's bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

**Restrooms** are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

**Large print copies of the worship folder** are available. Please ask an usher.

**At this service we celebrate Holy Communion.** Please speak with our pastor or an elder before communing if this is your first time receiving the Lord's Supper at TLO. The light-colored wine in the center of the individual communion tray is de-alcoholized wine, where the alcohol is reduced to .05%.



## Christmas Worship

Join us as we worship Jesus this Christmas season. Postcard invitations in the narthex make it easy to invite a friend or neighbor to worship with you!

- December 22 | 9:00\*am | Worship; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (note only one Sunday morning service)
- December 24 | 3:30pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship
- December 24 | 7:00\*pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
- December 25 | 9:00\*am | Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
- December 29 | 9:00\*am | Worship with Holy Communion (note only one Sunday service)

\*livestreamed at [www.trinityloneoak.org](http://www.trinityloneoak.org)