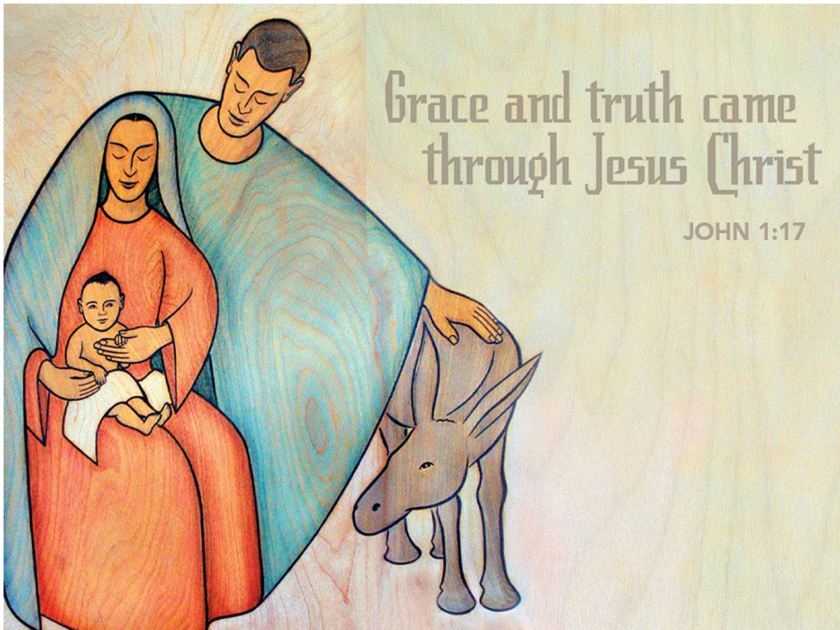


Second Sunday of Christmas

Saturday, January 3, 2021



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601

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VISIT TRINITY ONLINE

TrinityAltoona.com | Facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Every Member Ministers
 Elizabeth Hess Pastor
 Ralph Grove Organist
 Cindy Finnegan Minister of Music

Lectors

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM

Acolytes

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM

Ushers

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM



Donations for December 27, 2020 \$4,496.00

A sincere thank you to everyone that has continued to give and for the additional donations during this unprecedented time.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-WORSHIP MEDITATION

PASTOR: Let us read together Mark 12:28-31 (the Jesus Rule)

ALL: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

PASTOR: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of peace,

C: **we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN

GREETING

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

C: **And also with you**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray....

C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

L: A reading from Jeremiah

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

PSALM Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly. R**

God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

God scatters hail like bread crumbs.

Who can stand against God's cold?

The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

L: A reading from Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness

of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the First Chapter

C: **Glory to you , O Lord**

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Lord**

FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

"Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you" Deuteronomy 16:17

OFFERING

THE PRAYERS

A: Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Lord in your mercy

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen

*BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace

C:  A - men

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL

P: Mark 12:28-31

C: Love God, Love others.

*POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY!

Sunday, January 3— Saturday, January 9, 2020

Sunday 9:30 AM Live Virtual Service

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday 6:00 PM Un-decorate the church

Saturday



SYNOD NEWSLETTER

The Synod Council voted to move the Lutheran Letter to an all-digital newsletter. Any congregation member who wishes to continue receiving the newsletter, please send your email address to Michelle Bossler at Michelle.Bossler@alleghenysynod.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are grateful you are joining us today for worship. All who are baptized and receive communion in their home church are welcome to communion with us. In Christ's name we welcome our visitors and ask you to please introduce yourselves to Pastor Hess.



PASTORAL CARE

Would you like Pastor Eli to visit or call on a loved one that is in the hospital or at home? Take a moment and drop a note in the collection basket; the information will be given to Pastor. After service when talking to members of the congregation she is often told about more than one person in need of a visit so writing it down will give her the necessary information.

Be sure to include the name of the person in need along with where they are and their phone number. Please include your name and phone number, too, so Pastor can contact you if needed.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone who would like to help out delivering altar flowers to shut-ins please contact Patty Bennett at 944-4823. Ask anyone who has delivered flowers and they will tell you how much the flowers are appreciated.



ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP DATES

There is one open date for sponsoring flowers. If you are interested please contact Patty Bennett at 944-4823.

Available date: **April 18, 2021.**

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Bob & Ruth Brubaker
Tina Chestney
Church HealthTeam
Church Council
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh
Paul Hamilton

Kathy Hatch
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Doris Hollingshead
Dave Hoover
Martha Jones
Jessica McGraw
Bill McLaughlin
Cindy Murphy
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Angie Peacetree Family

Jaden Rhode
Shannon Family
Tom Simpson
Susie Stacey
Stenger Family
Jasmine Wilkins
Louise Yeager
Nancy Yeager

SHUT IN MEMBERS

Chris Burda
Audrey Deiluliis
Ron Green
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus
Bob Nearhoof
Arlene Roessing

ARMED FORCES

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Jim Buchanan
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Justin Patz
Jason Smith
Eric Sweet



FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Dustin Adams
Donnie Alwine
Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Sandy Badorec
Rick Beauchamp
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Casey Bondarenka
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Tracee Cole
Scott Corl
Jim Cox Family
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Deffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Zane Dodson
Miles Dunkelbarger
Scott Esch Family
Nancy & Bill Filler
Elisie Fogel
Garth Family
Haley Gehret
Dawn George
Amanda Gregg & Daughters
Ann Hanczaryk
Charles W. Harpster
Tim Harrison

Don Haslem
Danielle Hatfield
Dave Hogan
Jack Hoyne
Beth Ickes
Judy Johnson
Tom Klevan
Pastor John Klingeman
Kaylee Kruise
Lucya Kunkel
Jean Lane
Janelle Lehr
Raija Lind
Janet Luciano
Bernie Market
Ryan Maquire
Sharon Mayers
Barb McConnell
Bob McConnell
Eddie McGee
McGilvery Family
Kathy McIntyre
Sharon McKeegan
Connie McKnight
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller, Sr
Moore Family
Rudy Muccitelli
Bill & Penny Murphy

Wyatt Nite
David Orr
Zach Porta
Abby Remendowski
Katie Riggelman
Toran Robertson
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
Bill Senitko
Ronald Settle
C. Richard Shaffer
Patty Smith
Tina Spahn
Michael Stacey
Duane Stenger
Charlene Stonebraker
Denny Sullivan
George Sultage Sr
Robert Thomas Family
Blair Umholtz
Paul Wallis
Mary Walter
LuAnn Wilkinson-Doyle
James Wilt
Steve Wood

TRUTH BEYOND THE FACTS

There are many questions today about facts. Who do we trust to give us the facts? What sources and individuals are reliable? Social media can be a great tool for sharing, but it has also become a means of spreading misinformation, false beliefs, and bad advice. Many people today are suspicious of what some claim to be the facts.

Even if we have the right facts, we might not have something more important: the truth. Facts can be a partial representation of the truth. Facts might tell us that it is sunny and warm this morning, but the weather forecast might say thunderstorms are coming in the afternoon. The latter statement is truth. Truth is the larger reality that smaller facts don't capture, and sometimes contradict.

John tells us that Jesus is God's Word, full of grace and truth. In Jesus we get the full truth of God, not merely the facts. What are the facts we might see? We are all sinful and have strayed from God's just and loving ways. The world is a mess. Left to our own ways, we are surely lost. These are the facts, as if we woke up to a dangerous thunderstorm but don't know what the weather forecast is after that. Jesus is the fuller truth that in spite of the stormy mess of the world and our individual lives, God's grace is a gift to us in Christ. There is a blue sky and a safe calm that is ours through divine love.

Some of us live with messages that tell us we are not the right kind of person to receive God's grace because of our past mistakes, or ethnicity, or gender identity, or level of education, or poverty. The truth of Jesus Christ tells us we are children of God. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:16). This is the truth that gives us life.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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