

Trinity Lutheran Church



December 1, 2024
Fear Not! A Service for Advent

The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed "Fear not!" in response to the human emotions displayed before them. God's word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN:

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (ELW 490)



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

LITANY

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;

his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray together.

God of our salvation, you speak through angels and prophets, telling us: "Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you." Open our eyes and unstop our ears, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

FEAR NOT, ZECHARIAH, PRIEST AND RIGHTEOUS ONE

READING: Luke 1:5-25

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

A brief silence for meditation is kept.

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: *Blest Be the God of Israel*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

FEAR NOT, MARY, FAVORED ONE OF GOD

READING: Luke 2:1-20

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

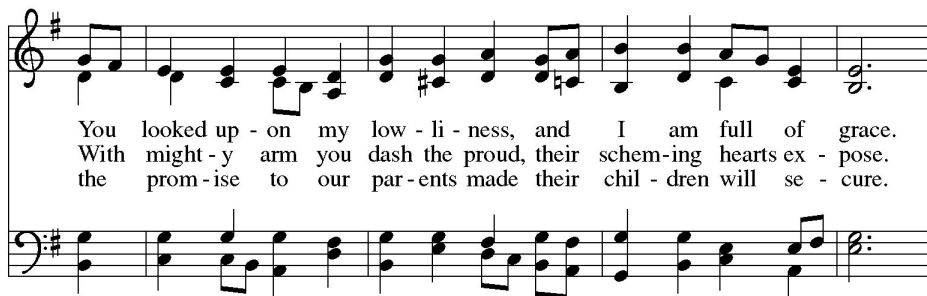
A brief silence for meditation is kept.

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

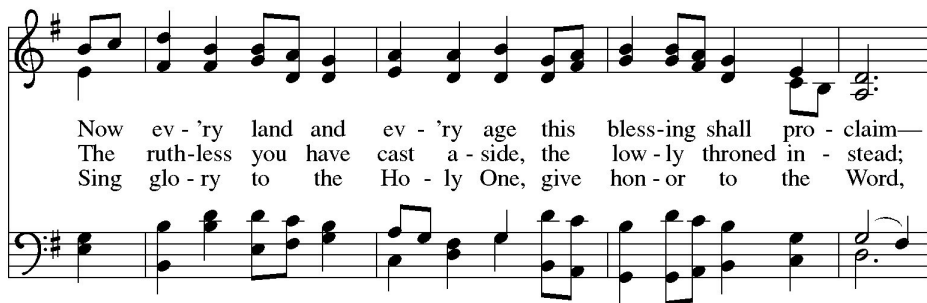
HYMN: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (ELW 251)



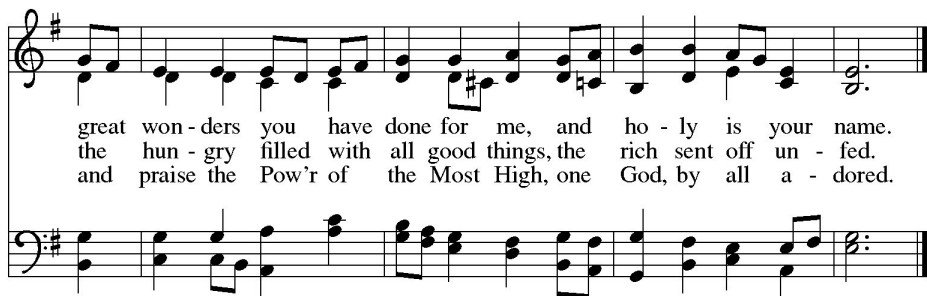
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.



Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

FEAR NOT, JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID

READING: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

Which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A brief silence for meditation is kept.

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: *Wait for the Lord* (ELW 262)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of the hymn is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The music ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

FEAR NOT, CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD

READING: Isaiah 43:1-7, 15-21

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth —

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

¹⁵I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

A brief silence for meditation is kept.

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
You have called us by name; we are yours.

HYMN: *You Are Mine* (ELW 581)



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer.

As the lector closes each petition:

Amen.

The people respond:

Come, Lord Jesus!

Teach us to boldly pray in the words our Savior gave us:
**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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

COMMUNION

White grape juice is available, and all altar bread is gluten-free..

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

And soon, the angel will announce to the shepherds, “Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy.” As we await the coming of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (ELW 246)

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav’n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

“Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!”
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv’n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

DISMISSAL

Fear not! Christ is coming soon. **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Serving in Worship

TODAY — Dec 1, 2024

Altar: Conyers Family

Reader: Lisa Guarnieri

Communion Assistant:

Stuart Guarnieri

Fellowship: OPEN

NEXT SUNDAY — Dec 8, 2024

Altar: Conyers Family

Reader: OPEN

Communion Assistant:

OPEN

Fellowship: OPEN

The Advent Season altar paraments have been given in honor of Janet K. Talbott.

Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Dec 1:	9:00am 9:00am 10:15am	Advent 1: Fear Not! Sunday School behind Gruver Rm Decorating in Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 2:	9:00am 5:30pm	“Becoming” in Gruver Rm TheologyPUB @ Front Street Tavern
Wed, Dec 4:	10:00am	Women's Bible Study in Gruver Rm
Thu, Dec 5:	11:45am	MUGG Campus Meeting @ Rendezvous Café
Sun, Dec 8:	9:00am 10:15am	Advent 2 Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Dec 9:	9:00am	“Becoming” in Gruver Rm
Tue, Dec 10:	7:00pm	Council in Gruver Rm
Wed, Dec 11:	10:00am	Women's Bible Study & Luncheon
Thu, Dec 12:	11:45am	MUGG Campus Meeting @ Rendezvous Café
Sun, Dec 15:	9:00am 9:00am 10:15am	Band Advent 3 w/ T. Edgar Sunday School in Gruver Rm Fellowship in Gruver Rm

SANCTUARY DECORATING



Join us today!
After Worship

THEOLOGY PUB



FIRST & THIRD MONDAYS 5:30-7PM
NEW LOCATION AND TIME!

LESSONS & CAROLS *for Advent*

Trinity Sunday Worship: 12.22.24

CABINET THOUGHTS: WHO IS EATING *ALL THIS FOOD?*



On her first visit to the cabinet, Patricia laboriously climbed back up and to the office with the two grandbabies she cares for. “You are out of milk for these babies,” she said. At that time we had regular Safeway gift cards to distribute, so Patricia was able to receive one and go to buy milk. Over the months since, she has stopped in often to tell us how much the cabinet eases her life. Her grandbabies learned to climb stairs on our steps. And, gradually, Patricia has been able to come less and less while losing eighty pounds...this past week she *ran* up the steps to thank us!



WANTED

A four-drawer legal filing cabinet with drawers that actually open and close!

If you have or know of one to donate please contact Lisa in the Office: telcoffice manager@gmail.com.



QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING? If you ever have any questions about your financial gifts to Trinity, please contact Trinity's financial secretary, Alison Lebeda, at alebada@uwyo.edu. If you need an up-to-date statement of giving, please contact the church office.

2024 Year-To-Date as of October 31

Income - \$166,873.59

Expenses - \$175,763.41



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th † Laramie, WY 82070 † www.telclaramie.com

Office: (307) 745-4222 † telcoffice manager@gmail.com

Pastor Nate: (307) 231-5371 † pastornate3421@gmail.com

IF YOU WOULD LIKE OR NEED A VISIT FROM PASTOR NATE PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL!

Congregation President	Adam Huck
Pastor	Nathan Keith
Accompanists	Trinity Band
Financial Director	Linda Lebeda
Financial Secretary	Alison Lebeda
In the Office	Lisa Guarnieri