



*When Jesus
becomes my
greatest desire,*

*He also
becomes*

my greatest joy.

Rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. 1 PETER 1:8

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13th / December 14th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)

When All the World Was Cursed

(Hymn 20)

1 When all the world was
cursed

By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater one he named,
And him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.

2 Before Saint John was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of him
Whom prophets had foretold.

3 Behold the Lamb of God,
Who bears the world's
transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

Please rise
4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with him
In his eternal day.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Old Testament Lesson

A Day in the Son

I remember my first day on a Florida beach. I was having a great time in the sun, but I had no idea what was happening to me. After a few hours, I walked off the beach ignorant, happy, and completely unaware that I was burned to a crisp. That realization would manifest in due time with intense pain, lots of aloe, and skin that would turn bright red and peel off.

I had no idea what the sun had been doing to me—I never felt it—until it was too late. I remember wishing I had had some sun block.

Sin is doing the same thing to the whole human race. People seek it out, bask in it, and have no idea what it is doing to them until it's too late.

Jesus is coming back with fire and judgment.

People need something that will protect them from the wrath of the Son. Paradoxically, the only thing that can protect people from the wrath of the Son is the Son himself. He removes the sin that is killing us and brings us healing instead.

2000 years ago, he sent John the Baptist to prepare people for Jesus. Today he sends us.

Malachi 4:1-6 (EHV)

4 Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. ³ You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies.

⁴ Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I commanded to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel.

⁵ Look! I am going to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the LORD comes! ⁶ He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with complete destruction.

Epistle Lesson

The Gifts of God

What do you want for Christmas? How about a life purified from sin and standing blameless before God on Judgment Day? Those are the gifts of God, the most expensive gifts in the history of the universe.

It's no wonder that we can always rejoice. We can stay in constant contact with our heavenly Father and express our appreciation for everything he does.

Let's stay strong in faith, immersing ourselves in his word, testing everything with the eternal truth of God. Let's fill this Christmas—and our entire lives—with the goodness of God and eject anything that would keep us from him.

1st Thessalonians 5:16-24 (EHV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(Hymn 16)

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

cont...

- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Gospel Lesson/Sermon Text:

What Do You Have to Say?

We Aren't the Light, but We Know Where to Find Him

John was God's spokesman, called to prepare the people for the Savior. As much as people wanted to put John into the spotlight, he kept pointing them to Jesus.

Now we are God's spokespeople, called to prepare people for Judgment Day. We do everything we can to put Jesus into the spotlight. We come to worship in the Lord's house—and we invite people to worship with us. We sing songs about our Savior and live lives that show people how much we love him. We send cards that highlight Jesus instead of ourselves. We use decorations that honor God and proclaim his love.

We are modern day messengers of God, like John the Baptist of old, testifying about the light so everyone can believe.

John 1:6–8, 19-28 (EHV)

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"
He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²²Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Jean Harper, Dorothy Johnson, Sally Kamps, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, Marjorie Urbaniak, and Jesse Zach

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: **Jesse Adams** (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The Lord's Prayer:

*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.*

Words of Intuition:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

The Benediction:

*P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.*

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

(Hymn 23)

- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

- 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

- 3 Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

- 4 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*