

Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service 1

December 16 & 17, 2023

5:00 + 8:15 + 10:15

Prelude

Ringling of the Bells

+ Service of Preparation +

Please Stand

Hymn ~ *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

LSB 341

(cantor sings stz. 2)

1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates! Be-hold, the
2 A righ-teous Help-er comes to thee; His char-iot
3 How blest the land, the cit-y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re-deem-er, come and o-pen wide My heart to

King of glo-ry waits. The King of kings is draw-ing
is hu-mil-i-ty, His king-ly crown is ho-li-
rul-er is con-fessed! O peace-ful hearts and hap-py
tem-ple set a-part From earth-ly use for heav'n's em-
Thee; here, Lord, a-bide! O en-ter with Thy grace di-

near; The Sav-ior of the world is here. Life and sal-
ness, His scep-ter, pit-y in dis-tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri-umph comes! The cloud-less
ploy, A-dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer-cy on me shine. Thy Ho-ly

va-tion He doth bring; There-fore re-joice and glad-ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo-ple free.
Sov-'reign en-ter in And new and no-bler life be-gin.
Spir-it guide us on Un-til our glo-rious goal is won.

To God the Fa-ther raise Your joy-ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav-ior raise Your grate-ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir-it raise Your hap-py shouts of praise.
To God a-lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E-ter-nal praise and fame We of-fer to Thy name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Call to Worship & Invocation

Isaiah 40

Pastor: Prepare the way for the Lord.

People: **Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.**

Pastor: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill be made low.

People: **The rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.**

Pastor: And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all humanity together will see it.

People: **Prepare the way for the Lord!**

Pastor: All are welcomed in this house of the Living God; to sing of God's name and to be refreshed by God's goodness.

People: **And none are turned away.**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Hymn ~ *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LSB 343 (st.1)



Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003521
Tune: Public domain

Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(a time of silence)

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given... ...in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Hymn ~ *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LSB 343 (st.4)



Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003521
Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray... ..through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Children's Message

(8:15 & 10:15)

Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Epistle Reading

Romans 15:5-6, 13

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

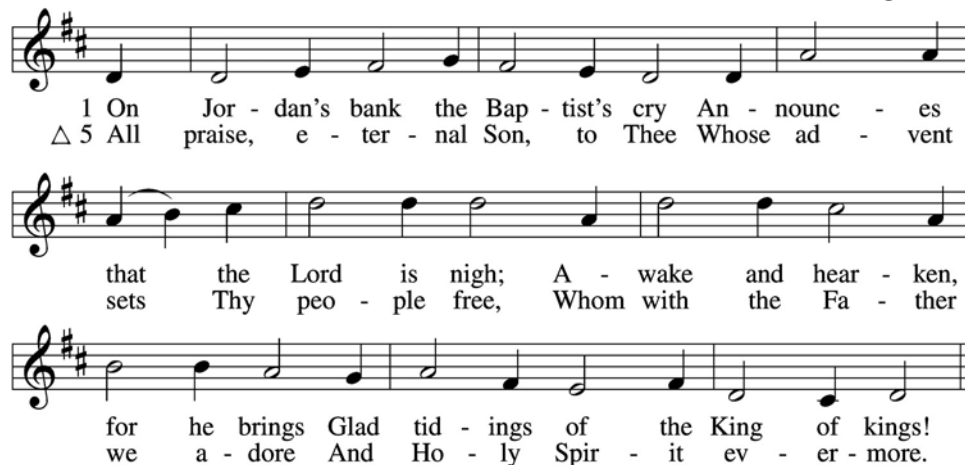
¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of the Day ~ *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

LSB 344 (sts. 1 & 5)



Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-23

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^[a] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"^[b]

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia and Verse



Verse sung by cantor



Alleluia



Please Be Seated

Message

The Color of Advent

Please Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Please Be Seated

Offering

Ways to Give

Giving a portion of the gifts God has given is, at its heart, an act of worship.

- Place your giving in the basket when you come forward for communion.
- Text to Give, simply text your gift amount ("i.e. \$25" be sure to include the \$ sign) to 314-310-0442.

- Online giving at <https://trinitystlouis.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>.
- Mail your giving to Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 Soulard St., St. Louis, MO 63104.

Welcome to Trinity!

If you're new to our neighborhood or worshipping community, we with our ministry by filling out our online Connection Card. Snap the to our online welcome, or navigate to the following URL to connect... "trinitystlouis.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/107/responses/new"



invite you to connect
QR Code to be taken

+ Service of the Sacrament +

We believe that in this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. All who wish to receive the sacrament are invited to come forward to receive the unending forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Children and those who would prefer not to receive the sacrament are welcome at the altar to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

Please Stand

Preface and Proper Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right and... evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



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.

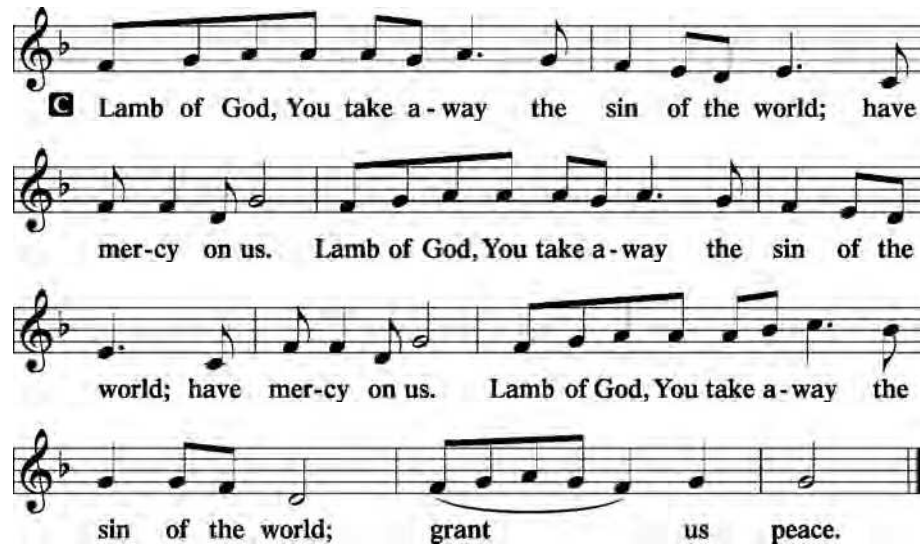
Words of Institution

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God

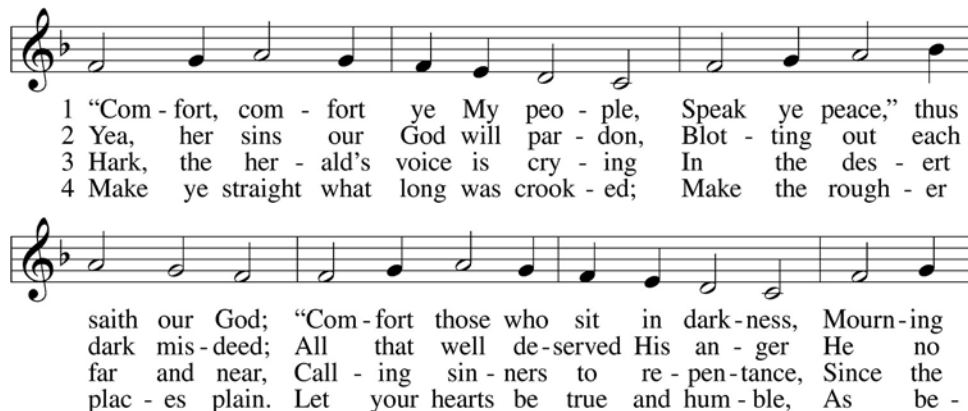


☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

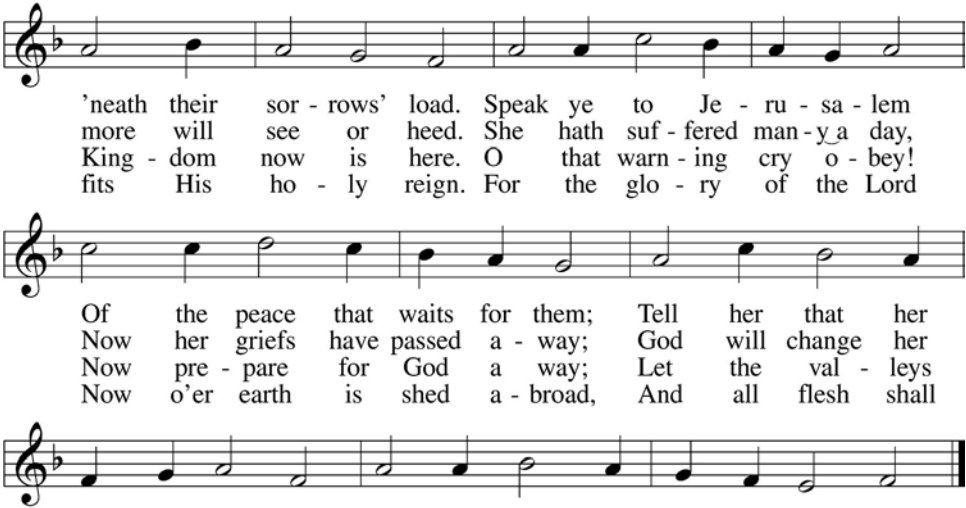
Holy Communion

Communion Hymn ~ *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er
saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord

Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys shall
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text and tune: Public domain

Communion Hymn ~ *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003521
 Tune: Public domain

Communion Hymn ~ Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 (sts. 1, 2, 6 7)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
 6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the
 7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
 vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole
 through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;

That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.
 All our ills of flesh and soul.
 In this light faith now a - bides.

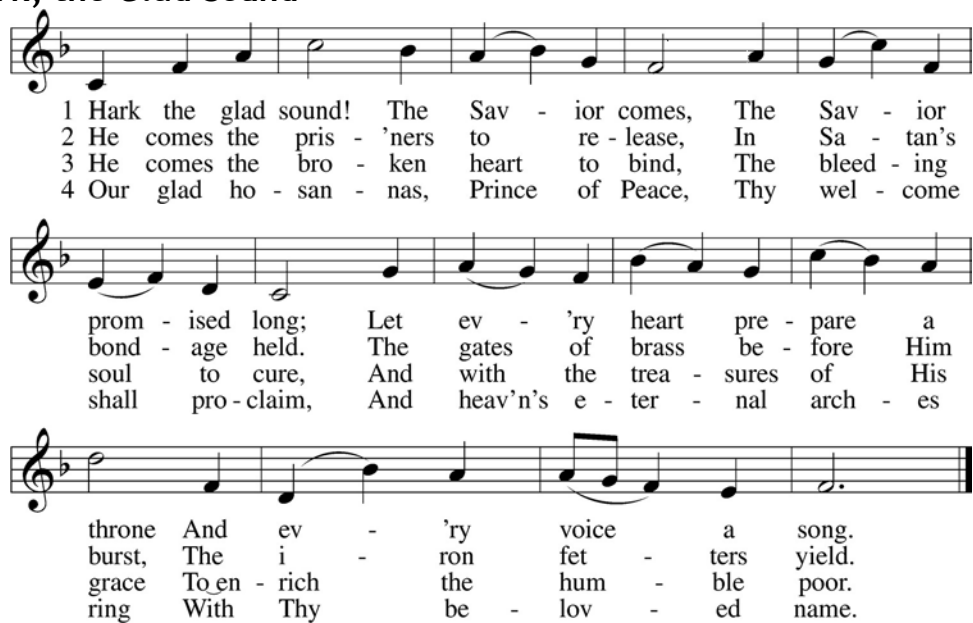
Text (st. 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 6-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003521
 Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Benediction

Hymn ~ Hark, the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version ® NIV ®
 Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved
 worldwide.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE
 LICENSE with license #A227134

Worship Leaders



Ministers: *The People of Trinity Lutheran Church*

	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>8:15 a.m.</i>	<i>10:15 a.m.</i>
Preacher:	<i>Steve Albers</i>	<i>Steve Albers</i>	<i>Steve Albers</i>
Presider:	<i>Steve Albers</i>	<i>Josh Hatcher</i>	<i>Josh Hatcher</i>
Liturgist:	<i>Steve Albers</i>	<i>Joshua Steele</i>	<i>Joshua Steele</i>
Children's Message:		<i>Josh Hatcher</i>	<i>Josh Hatcher</i>
Communion Servers:			<i>Joshua Blasingame, Rosalie Wilke</i>
Lector:	<i>Steve Lange</i>	<i>Luke Eatherton</i>	<i>Eric Elizondo</i>
Acolyte:	<i>Naomi Hildreth</i>	<i>Luke Eatherton</i>	
Organist:	<i>Jeff White</i>	<i>Jeff White</i>	<i>Jeff White</i>
Cantor:	<i>Nicole Heerlein</i>	<i>Nicole Heerlein</i>	<i>Nicole Heerlein</i>
Musicians:			<i>Sanctuary Choir, Trinity Handbells</i>
Livestream:			<i>Hayden Koeltzow, Paul Koeltzow</i>
Communion Prep:	<i>Nancy Poggemoeller</i>	<i>Annette Carson</i>	<i>Dorothy Brents</i>
Usher:	<i>Phil Koehr</i>	<i>Phil Koehr, Paula Wike</i>	<i>Julia Oberheu Tritschler, Melba Wetmore</i>
SONday School Teachers:	<i>Alex Moll, Katy Moll</i>		
SONday School Music Leader:	<i>Katy Moll</i>		

December, 16 & 17 2023

TRINITY TODAY

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!
We pray that your time with us today is uplifting
and encouraging as we follow Jesus together as
God's people.

Our ministry team and community of faith are here
to help you connect both with Christ Jesus and
with our ministry. If we can be of help to you in
any way, please don't hesitate to let us know.

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Worship Services - Saturday 5:00 - Sunday 8:15 & 10:15

SUNDAY

SONday School 9:15 a.m. Parish House, 1st flr.

Annual Voter's Meeting (2024 Budget) 9:15 a.m. sanctuary

Gateway Ringers, 4:00 p.m. sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Parish House, 3rd flr.

Advent Worship Services 12:15 & 5:30 p.m. (sanctuary)

Sanctuary Choir 7:00 p.m. sanctuary balcony

MONDAY - SATURDAY

Soup Window 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Office Hours 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Closed ~ December 24, 2023 - January 2, 2024

TUESDAY

Women's Bible Study Christmas Lunch 11:00 a.m.

SqWires, 1415 S 18th Street

Next Weekend

No worship service on Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. or

Sunday, December 24 at 8:15 a.m.

Regular Sunday Worship Service on December 24 at 10:15 a.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship services

3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

December 25 - Christmas Day Worship service, 10:15 a.m.

CONGREGATION

Congregational Voter's meetings:

- Regular Voter's Meeting – Sunday, December 17, 2023 – re: 2024 Budget

Trinity Year End Financial Appeal

We're so thankful for your generosity this year! Your prayerful gifts have made it possible for us to begin renovation on our school building soon.

2023 has been a challenging financial year in many ways, including high inflation and a difficult investment marketplace. As a result, we're looking at a current shortfall for the year of over \$128,000.

We want you to know we're cutting expenses where we can, and prayerfully doing our best to be good stewards of God's gifts. We are not going broke, we have some backup reserves, but using them can be a slippery slope and those funds are not endless.

So, we're asking if you are able, to prayerfully consider an additional year-end gift to support Trinity's ministry, as a response to the gifts God has entrusted to you.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	<u>2023 YTD</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$511,860.	\$621,775.	\$(109,915).	\$556,361.	\$505,770
Community Care	9,146.	39,371.	(30,225).	19,526.	38,894.
TOTAL INCOME	\$521,006.	\$661,146.	\$(140,140).	\$575,887.	\$544,664

As of November 30th, church income is below budget by \$140,140 and is 10.2% and 8.4% lower than income for the comparable periods ending November 2022 and 2021, respectively. The current period net operating loss is \$100,071, slightly better than October.

Ministry of the Month: Martin Luther once said: "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to us that we should proclaim the Word of God through music." This is what the Choirs and Musicians of Trinity strive to do through our singing, ringing, and playing of instruments. Even the hymns we sing every week are vehicles for prayer, praise, and even Christian education. Participation in the Choir only requires a heart willing to dedicate the time to learn the music in weekly rehearsals from Labor Day through Memorial Day. Musical experience is helpful, but not required, to ring in the handbell choir, and anyone who is able to play an instrument is invited to use that talent to God's glory by letting Jeff White know of your interest. Both the Choir and Handbells meet on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. Let us know if you would like to be part of providing your gift to proclaim and praise.

Panhandling - Please DO NOT give money, food or other items to any unhoused neighbors who might ask when you are at Trinity. Panhandling will not be tolerated on Trinity's campus, if someone needs food, please tell them "Soup Alley is open Monday - Saturday from 9:30-10:30" or "It's Trinity's policy not to give things out on Sundays"

Altar Flowers - Altar flowers can be and are more than mere ornaments. They are the expression of our love for God as well as a means of glorifying his name in all the earth. If you would like to provide flowers for a particular Sunday to mark a special life event such as birth and birthdays; anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation; the memory of a loved one; or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings, call or email the church office (314-231-4092 x2, or office@trinitystlouis.com). You can also reserve a Sunday online on Church Community Builder, for more information check Trinity ENews.

GIVING

There are many ways to Give:

Online giving: Check Trinity Weekend ENews for the link or go to <https://trinitystlouis.com/give/>.

In Person: Gifts of cash or check payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church" can be given in all worship services.

Mail: You can send your gift to Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 Soulard Street, St. Louis, MO 63104

2023 Year End Giving: Giving for 2023 must be given online no later than December 31, 2023.; given in person in the offering plate during the 2023 services or mail postmarked no later than December 31, 2023

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - Christmas Lunch 11:00 a.m. meet at SqWires, 1415 S 18th St., Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or check you Enews for RSVP online.

Wednesday Bible Study -10:45 a.m. Bible class this week, Parish House, 3rd flr.

STUDENT MINISTRY

SONday School - For children 3 years to 5th grade, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish House, 1st flr., opens with music led by elementary school music teachers Katy Moll and Rebecca Carroll. No SONday School December, 24 & 31.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Gateway Ringers – The Gateway Ringers will be performing a Christmas concert at Trinity on December 17 at 4:00 p.m. The group is an auditioned handbell ensemble, ringing six octaves of bells and seven octaves of chimes. There is no cost to attend, and an optional free-will offering will be taken to benefit the group. Trinity's Minister of Music, Jeff White, has rung with this group since 1999 and there may be a surprise premier of a special version of "We Three Kings." See Jeff if you would like more information.

COMMUNITY CARE

Neighborhood: Thank you for all the gifts given for Humboldt! Along with donations from Christ Memorial we had more gifts than we needed and were able to donate the extra toys to other kids in need.

Community:

Soup Alley Food - **1,239 meals served at Soup Alley for the month of November. Daily average of 50 meals**
Please consider how you can help, donate, or serve. Meals are served Monday-Saturday 9:30 -10:30 a.m. for our unhoused and hungry neighbors.

Items to donate:

- Bottled water
- Large and X Large t-shirts, hoodies, and underwear.
- Winter gear

Thank you for your generosity, we do not need sandwiches, toiletries, or snacks for Soup Alley. We will begin taking sandwich donations again January 4th.

If you are able to bring any of these items to Trinity for distribution, please schedule your drop-off through the church office by emailing office@trinitystlouis.com. Donation drop off days are Mondays and Thursdays between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm by appointment.

New Community Care Donation Bins: Please place your Saturday/Sunday donations for Community Care in the marked bins in the "museum room." This will help us inventory items coming into Soup Alley.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Advent Wednesday Worship 12:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m., the overall theme is *The Family of Advent*.

December 20 -- John: *Whose Humility Comes with Purpose and Power*, Mark 1:1-8

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship services 3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day Worship service, 10:15 a.m.

No worship service on Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 24 at 8:15 a.m.

Regular Sunday Worship Service on December 24 at 10:15 a.m.

PRAY

Birthdays ~ December 16 - 22

Cori Levin	December 17
Tim McGinnis	December 17
Kathy Leitner	December 19

Parish Community

Trent Pappan & Sara Didion
Charlie & Leo
Travs & Christy Dillon

*The altar flowers are offered to the Glory of God for
The family of Ross Stroh: the loss of his mother's husband, Don Smart and
Arvella & Bud McManis, mother and brother of Marcia Eden, grandmother and
uncle of Kim Dann-Messier
by Trinity's Handbell Choir*