



*"About that day or hour no one knows ... Beware, keep alert!"
St. Mark 13:32-33*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Daphne, Alabama 36526

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Rev. Richard H. Mueller

Pastor

Joy M. Sullivan

Parish Musician

Steve Horlebein

Parish Administrator

"Come, Celebrate with Us"

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! To assist the office staff in serving you, **please sign the yellow Attendance & Communion Registration sheet included in the bulletin.** We also ask first time worshippers to sign the guest book on the table near the doors.

Please direct all pastoral care concerns to Pastor, Rich Mueller at 914-388-2240.



Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We face the font, remembering God's promise of forgiveness in baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

[241, "O Lord, How Shall I meet You"](#)

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free,
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me,
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

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.

KYRIE (*Spoken*)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING of the ADVENT WREATH & LIGHTING of the FIRST CANDLE of ADVENT

Hymn 240 "Light One Candle"

(Stanza 1)



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el. God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

***C:* And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***C:* Amen.**

Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (*Spoken in unison*)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the

testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Spoken in unison*)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now you saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Richard H. Mueller

HYMN OF THE DAY [246, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"](#)

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-pect-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!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

THE PRAYERS *(Stand or kneel)*

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (***Local feeding or housing ministries may be named***). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Your offering can be left in the baskets provided near the entrance of the sanctuary.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

186, "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken in unison)*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Life up your hearts. We life them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Eucharistic Prayer follows, concluding with 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.**

COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Christ is truly present in this sacrament. We trust the Word, "The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you." By Christ's invitation, all baptized people of God are welcome to receive Christ's gift of love and mercy. Cups are available to receive wine from the Worship Assistant's pouring chalice. If grape juice is preferable, it is available in the tray the Acolyte carries.

Those not wishing to participate in Holy Communion may come forward and receive a blessing. Please notify the usher if you are unable to come forward, but wish to commune

in your seat. Approach the altar from the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

870, "We Praise You, O God"

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voi - ces u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring,
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been,
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help. O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Niederländisch Gedächtnisbuch*, 1626

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding minister may say a table blessing.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

***C:* Amen**

The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

A: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

***C:* Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
 ☩ now and forever.

***C:* Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

248, "People, Look East"

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim. shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as the sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1963

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

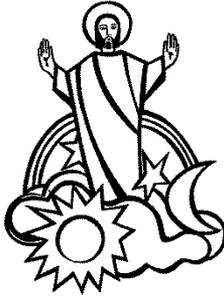
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Hughton Associates.

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A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Wednesday Advent Events: We will gather on Wednesday evenings during Advent for a time of prayer, devotion, meditation and song at **6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. The dates are **December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**. The theme for the gatherings will be **Watch, Wait and Wonder**. As we journey to Bethlehem once more, take time out from what can become a crazy and hectic time to concentrate on the true meaning of this season of Advent and Christmas.

Our **annual Congregation Assembly** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 6th**, immediately following the Service of Holy Communion. In addition to the Congregation Council members noted above that will need to be elected, we will also elect Voting Members for the 2021 Southeastern Synod Assembly, June 4th-6th, in Chattanooga, TN. Linda Veren and Diane MacShane have agreed to be voting members next year.

Help Needed: We remain in need of someone willing to Schedule Worship Leaders every month for roles such as assisting ministers, acolytes, lectors, cantors, children's sermon, greeters, ushers, etc. Tommy Fuller has graciously been filling in this position but would appreciate someone else stepping up for this task. Please see Tommy or Phyllis for more information. Thank you to all who so graciously give of their time. All help is much appreciated. These positions are unpaid, but the heavenly reward is priceless. Worship & Music Commission Phyllis Buchholz

Wanna Poinsettia? If you would like to donate a poinsettia as part of our Christmas sanctuary decorations and then have it to take home after our celebrations, please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex by **December 6th**. The **cost remains at \$10**.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Announcements for Sunday, November 29, 2020

TO KEEP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those worshipping for the first time at Holy Trinity. Cancer/Illness: **Joyce Dyas, Danny Inlow, Bruce Peterson, Dot Peterson and Wade Winslow;** Those serving in military, firefighters & law enforcement including: **Marc Alverson, Daryl Bogle, Adam and Cathryn Cormier, Steve Duke, Shawn Ethington, Brent Massey, Jordan Miller, Christopher Mueller, Rich Peacock, Derrick Thorsrud and Dylan Winslow;** Holy Trinity's Mission Partner: **Grace Lutheran Church – Gulf Shores and AL Pastor Hope Noble;** ELCA Leaders: **SE Synod Bishop Rev. Kevin Strickland, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pastor Rich Mueller.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our stewardship last week: Attendance – 37 Offerings - \$2,237.00

SCRIPTURE DECEMBER 6TH: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Today** 9:00am **Cancelled:** Sunday School
10:00am Service of Holy Communion
1:15pm Boy Scouts
- Mon., Nov. 30** 5:45pm Musical Beginnings - Classroom 2
- Tues., Dec. 1** 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
12:00pm **Cancelled:** Lunch Bunch
3:00pm – 6:15pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
6:00pm **Cancelled:** WELCA - Phoebe's Circle
- Wed., Dec. 2** 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
4:00pm – 4:30pm Musical Beginnings - Classroom 2
5:30pm Yoga Class
6:30pm Advent Gathering: Watch, Wait and Wonder
- Thur., Dec. 3** 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- Fri., Dec. 4** 4:30pm – 5:00pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
- Sat., Dec. 5** 8:00am Men's Breakfast
8:00am Yoga Class
10:00am Confirmation Ministry
- Sun., Dec. 6** 9:00am **Cancelled:** Sunday School
9:00am **Cancelled:** Choir Practice
10:00am Service of Holy Communion

Assisting in Worship

Presiding Minister	Rev. Richard H. Mueller
Musicians	Joy M. Sullivan: Piano Steve Horlebein: Guitar
Assisting Minister	Linda Veren
Acolyte	Mena Teal
Lector	Andy Veren
Cantor	Debi Horlebein
Children's Sermon	TBD
Altar Guild	Linda Gregg
Greeters	Rick & Ann Massey
Ushers	Rich Peacock & Derek Thorsrud
Tellers	Diane MacShane & Phyllis Buchholz
Flower Pickup	Advent – N/A



PURPOSE STATEMENT

God's purpose for Holy Trinity is to grow faith that moves us beyond ourselves.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Faithfully living with Christ at the center.
2. Prayerfully listening with open hearts and minds.
3. Selflessly welcoming all without preconceptions.
4. Courageously bearing our neighbor's burdens.
5. Relating to one another with respect and honesty.
6. Boldly sharing our blessings with others.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Stay awake, for God is coming with power.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Jesus is coming soon
Thursday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace and prosperity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Children of light
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Deliver us from harm, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us that we may await your coming with power and glory through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be blessed with hope and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Awake, Awake, and Greet
the Morn*



taking 
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- What are some dangerous or alarming situations we face in our world today?
- Sometimes it seems easier to deny the dangers we face and pretend they are not really a problem. How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of the frailty of life. We may come up with short-term fixes like finding shelter, warmth, and food. There is always the challenge of the unforeseen storm that can flood our lives with devastation, when the whole world seems to be falling down around us (vv. 24-25). No generation escapes these trials and sufferings (vv. 29-30). It happened to the people who returned from Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 64); it happened to the first Christians as noted by Mark in chapter 13; and, it happens all around the world today. What we need is the God who promises to show up and be the difference-maker. This Advent we are reminded to be alert to this God who shows up in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus we have hope because we have the one in whom the truth of his words will never pass away, never end, never fail (v. 31). So live life with gusto, with courage, with hope, and stay awake, keep alert, don't give up (vv. 33, 35, and 37). How does public worship, reading the Bible and prayer help you stay awake to Jesus' coming into our lives?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives with faith in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Advent is a time to recall the basic needs of life: a loving and gracious God and justice and mercy that all may have enough to live. In what ways can you "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others and providing needed resources for the homeless?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. This coming year, the Gospel readings will be from Mark. To launch the new church year, gather together all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing: **Almighty God, we thank for you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. Give us hope as we read, listen to, and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year. Make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

PANDEMIC WORSHIP ADAPTATIONS

Thank you and God for being part of our worship together. To protect you and other worshippers Holy Trinity is following CDC, our synod and Alabama state recommendations as extra precautions. Here is a summary of our temporary worship adaptations that we ask everyone to respect and abide by while attending services. If you have any questions, simply ask one of our ushers.

1. Bringing and wearing a mask is strongly encouraged, especially if you cannot maintain six feet of separation from others. If you do not have a mask with you we have a small supply on hand. Hand sanitizer is plentiful.
2. It is imperative that everyone completes an attendance card. Please do so as this information would be critical if we ever need to complete contact tracing and stem a potential outbreak.
3. Please bring your own writing instrument for completing attendance cards, taking notes, etc. If you do not have one with you, ask an usher for a pen or pencil. We sanitize them before and after each service.
4. Maintain six feet separation between families for adequate social distancing once entering the building, while in the sanctuary, and until you leave the building.
5. Only the main entrance is being used. As you enter the building please pick up a bulletin in the Narthex and proceed directly to the sanctuary. The doors will remain open during worship services to optimize ventilation.
6. **Singing will be limited to only a soloist** for a while. Our usual musical accompaniment remains.
7. Passing of the Peace is curtailed for now. Opportunities always remain for a "stay in place" wave or some other safe gesture.
8. Restroom doors at the end of the hallway will remain open to minimize your physical contact with any other objects. Multiple anti-bacterial soap dispensers are inside. Since the narthex restroom does not afford adequate privacy, it is not available.
9. The offering and attendance cards will not be collected during the service but may be dropped in the labelled baskets on either side of the sanctuary. Please be sure to complete and place your attendance card in the basket before you leave.
10. Communion is being administered by family/seating unit at the front of sanctuary. This might take a little longer, but please maintain six feet from the worshippers around you. Follow the usher's guidance when it's your turn, approach from the center aisle, and exit to the left and return to your seats.
11. After the worship service please proceed to the building exit, taking with you as you leave all paper, writing instruments, bibles, precious stones, popcorn or any other items. Please be safe by being patient.
12. Temporarily, the narthex cabinets are locked and inaccessible. Hence, we do not have access to our mail folders and we are not wearing our name tags.
13. Following worship services we are not hosting any hospitality. Please avoid entering the Fellowship Hall or the classrooms.
14. The sanctuary and other common spaces are being cleaned and disinfected after each Sunday's worship.