

Light one candle to watch for the Messiah!

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

HTLsomerset.org

the Rev. Dale A. Fjordbotten, Pastor

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Welcome!

**If you'd like to learn more about Holy Trinity and our family,
or have a need or concern, please speak with the Pastor,
or phone or email us.**

It would be our joy and privilege to get to know you!

Serving Today:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Presiding Minister | Pastor Dale |
| • Deacon | John Bremer |
| • Organists | Lorna-Jane Bremer & Thomas Jennings |
| • Cantors | Diane Trampe, Marty Czebotar, Diane Pagano |
| • Altar | Theresa Farkas |
| • Counter | Maureen Haney |
| • Service Bulletin | John Bremer, Thomas Jennings |
| • Live-Stream | Thomas Jennings, Maureen Haney, Kori Fjordbotten |
| • Greeter | John Haney |

Service Bulletin Notations:

P = Pastor **A** = Deacon/Worship Assistant **C** = Congregation

LSB = Lutheran Service Book (maroon) **WOV** = With One Voice (blue)

Standing during the service, where indicated, is optional

First Sunday in Advent



November 29, 2020



10:00 AM

Service of the Word
Special Advent Setting

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Dale

The **Advent** season, the four weeks prior to Christmas,
is a season of hope and anticipation
as we look forward to the celebration of the birth
of our Lord and Savior!

This first Sunday establishes this theme for the season.

Stand

Call to Worship Seeking Light

P In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for You to come into our world,
We are seeking light.

P In our own lives

C **We are seeking light.**

P In our neighborhoods

C **We are seeking light.**

P In our families

C **We are seeking light.**

P In our work

C **We are seeking light.**

P In Grace
C We are seeking light.

P In our nation
C We are seeking light.

P In our world
C We are seeking light.

P In our congregation
C We are seeking light.

P Seek and you shall find,
Knock and the door will be opened,
Ask and it will be given to you.

C **Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world**
May we have eyes to see You
And ears to hear You
Come into our world today.

Hymn *The Advent of Our King* (St. 1,2,5,6)

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text (sts. 1-6): Public domain.

Confession

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for His coming,
keeping our lamps lighted, and our hearts clean.
Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

Silence for reflection.

P God and Father of us all:

C We prepare our hearts for the coming of Your Son, confessing our sins,
confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ.
We confess that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.
We are helpless to free ourselves.
We beg Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts,
and keep us faithful for the promised coming of Your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

P God sent His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem,
to show His infinite love and forgiveness for all.
Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✠ Christ,
who came and will come again.

C Amen.

Kyrie ~ Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

LSB 943

Cantor

... let us
pray to the Lord:

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. (hum)

(the Kyrie continues on following page)

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

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

C **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

A 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 **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

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

C **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Prayer of the Day

P From the One who is, and who was,
and who is to come, the Almighty:
grace, light and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
that by Your protection
we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins
and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

P Keep awake! Be Ready!
The Son of Man is coming, but about that day and hour no one knows,

C **Neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**

P Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

C **Therefore be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.
We light the first candle of Advent to remind us to keep awake and be ready.**

[The acolyte or deacon now lights the first blue candle]

Light one can-dle 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. *repeat once*

First Reading **Isaiah 64:1–9** *Behold, We Are All Your People*

This communal lament comes from a people who have had their hopes and dreams shattered. The great visions of a restored 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.

A The Old Testament reading for this First Sunday of Advent is from Isaiah, chapter 64:

- ¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

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

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 80:1-7 *Restore Us, Lord*

Following the introduction, congregation sings refrain; cantor chants the verses.

Refrain:



Re - store us, Lord, and show your face, and then we shall be saved.

Verses:

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock! *
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*
stir up your might and come to | save us! **Refrain**

O LORD | God of hosts,*
how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?
You have fed them with the | bread of tears*
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.
You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved! **Refrain**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 *Thanksgiving*

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians addresses many problems that had arisen in the early church. Still, he sets these problems within the context of thanksgiving for the grace and faithfulness of God.

A The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter 1:

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 was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! God's ab - i - ding Word now hear.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! See the Son of Man ap - pear.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Our re - demp - tion draw - ing near!

Holy Gospel Mark 11:1–10 *the Triumphal Entry*

Mark's is the shortest of the four Gospels—only 16 chapters—but he devotes five chapters (11-15) to Jesus' death and the events that lead to it and one chapter (16) to Jesus resurrection. As a result, this Gospel is sometimes described as "a passion narrative with a lengthy introduction."

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon “The Best Present”

Pastor Dale

Hymn of the Day *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

(hymn continues on next page)



2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Stand

Confession of Faith ~ Apostles' Creed

P God has made us His people through our baptism into Christ.
 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **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.**

(Christian: the ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the universal church)

Prayer of the Church - First Sunday in Advent

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

- P** To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be
ashamed of our hope but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may
have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Lord, enrich Your saints in every way as we enter another Church Year.
Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about
Christ may be confirmed again among us. Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew,
our Synod president; Tony, our district president; and all pastors in Christ.
Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and
wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would
diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their
parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life.
Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace
and order in our nation. Hear our prayers for Donald, our president; Phil, our
governor; our military and police; and other civil servants as well as all newly elected
officials. Increase a spirit of unity and cooperation among the people of our land and
the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for those in need [*especially*]. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn, [*especially*], and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection.
Lord, in Your mercy,

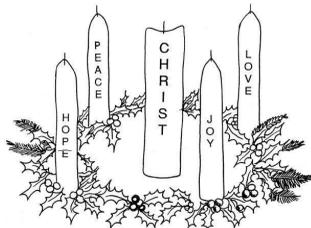
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P And now Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**



ThanksGiving



You may deposit your offering in the plate at the rear of the church,
or you may give electronically in any of the following ways:

1. You may go to www.htlsomerset.org
and click on “Give Now”
2. You may use the GivePlus Mobile App and search for HTLC
with zip 08873
3. You may use the QR code for e-giving

You may also mail your gift to:
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
1640 Amwell Rd.,
Somerset NJ 08873**

Benediction

- P** May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,
shine upon you and scatter the darkness from your path.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

Brief Announcements

Stand

Sending Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* (St. 1,2,4)

WOV 744

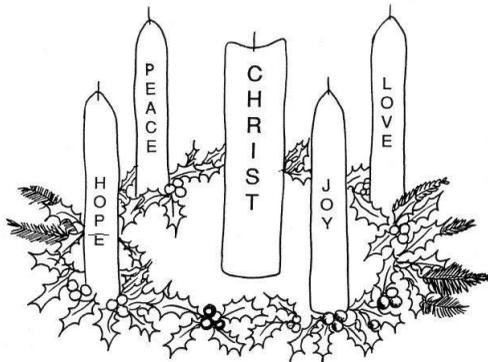
(hymn printed on following page)

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King!
soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King!
soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King! Hal - le -
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're goin' to see the King!

2. No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King!
No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King!
No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
4. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. The coming of the Lord is near.
- C** **THANKS BE TO GOD!**



Thanksgiving Meal Kit Update – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your donations to the Thanksgiving Dinner Kits project. This year, Holy Trinity was able to provide **16 dinner kits** for the **Franklin Township Food Bank, PLUS one for the Swido family**. Included with each kit was a **\$20 grocery store gift card** towards the purchase of a turkey or a ham.

Additional cash gifts of **\$235.00** were donated!
Thanks to all who donated food or money!

A special thanks to **Jackie Raynes, Food Bank Coordinator**,
for leading this project!



ALL ABOUT ADVENT

The **Advent** season, the four weeks prior to Christmas, is a season of hope and anticipation as we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, as well as His return!

In Western Christianity, **Advent** begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30 (the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in the Catholic tradition).

Consequently, in Western Churches, the First Sunday of Advent can fall as early as November 27 or as late as December 3.

The season of Advent lasts through **Christmas Eve**, or December 24. When Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is the last or fourth Sunday of Advent.

The liturgical color of this season is **BLUE**.

This is the only time during the year this color is used.

Our worship reflects the changing season.

Look for different, but familiar service music, hymns, and liturgical practices.

See how many differences you can discern!



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UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **December 3** **Mid-Week Advent Vespers at 7:00 PM**

 - **December 6** **10:00 AM - Second Sunday in Advent**
 - **December 10** **Mid-Week Advent Vespers at 7:00 PM**

 - **December 13** **10:00 AM - Third Sunday in Advent**
 - **December 17** **Mid-Week Advent Vespers at 7:00 PM**

 - **December 20** **10:00 AM - Fourth Sunday in Advent**

 - **December 24** **7:00 PM - The Nativity of Our Lord**
 - **CHRISTMAS EVE - Carols and Candlelight**

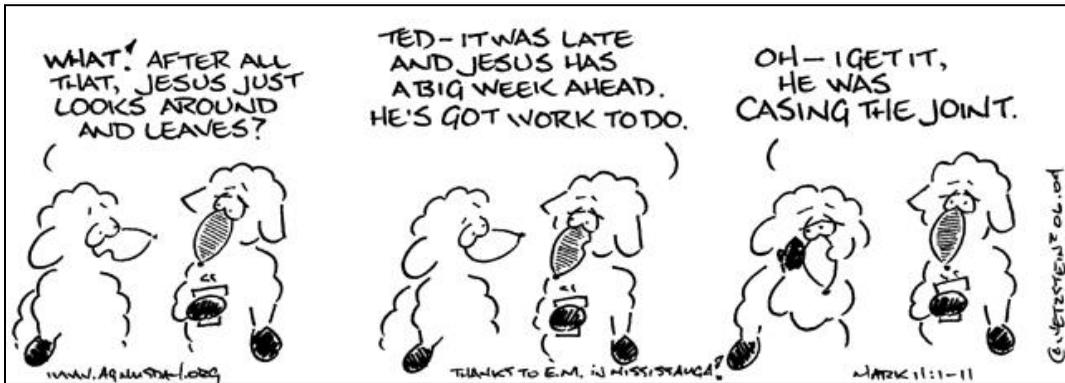
 - **December 25** **10:00 AM - The Nativity of Our Lord**
 - **CHRISTMAS DAY - Holy Communion**
-

+SPECIAL EVENT TODAY+

Today at **4:00 PM**, a beautiful **Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols**
with adult and children's choir, and instrumentalists
Location: Somerville, NJ at **Immaculate Conception Church**,
35 Mountain Avenue. Free will offering.



AgnusDay, the Lectionary Comic



Thank You to All who Make Worship Possible Here!

Worship is the very heart of what we do here at Holy Trinity. The worship service is the principal tool of ministry to proclaim the Word of God and administer the Sacraments. We are most thankful for all those who volunteer to enable all of our **60-plus yearly worship services** to be reverent and meaningful.

Some of the many we list here:

- our **Pastor**, Shepherd of the flock, who leads us in the Word of God each week.
- our **Acolytes**, the altar servers, who assist the ministers in the worship service.
- our **Altar Guild** whose members prepare the sacred worship space and the elements of Holy Communion.
- our **Cantors and Singers**, our talented leaders of song, who rehearse each week to lead our ministry of music.
- our **Church Council**, whose elected and appointed members meet regularly to administer the business affairs of the congregation.
- our **Community Garden Coordinator** and Support Team who maintain and operate the Somerset Community Garden.
- our **Deacons** who proclaim the scripture readings and assist the pastor in the service and in ministering to members of the congregation.
- our **Fellowship Hour Hosts**, who enable us each week to extend our worship into a time of fellowship and conversation.
- our **Food Bank Coordinator** and those who donate towards the Thanksgiving Meal Kits every year.
- our **Live-Stream Team**, who enable our service to be available on-line through the Church's Facebook page.
- our **Organists and Instrumentalists** who provide inspired musical leadership.
- our **Property** team who work hard in maintaining our building and improving the appearance of the property.
- our **Service Bulletin Staff** who each week prepare and print the service folder.
- our **Ushers** who welcome worshippers and assist in the service.
- And **YOU, the Parishioners**, because worship is the work of the people praising God, an interactive experience of joy and celebration!

THANKS BE TO GOD!