

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

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Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2009

Holy Communion – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Concerto in A Minor

Antonio Vivaldi – J. S. Bach

Allegro, Adagio, Allegro

SILENT PROCESSION OF CHOIR AND CLERGY (10:30)

THE ANTIPHON (10:30)

Lo, In the Time Appointed

Healey Willan

Text from a Sarum Antiphon

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom: and upon the throne of David shall he reign forever. Alleluya.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

THE HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound! “Chesterfield”

ELW 239

GREETING

From the one who was, who is,

and who is to come:

Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN (10:30)

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

THE MOTET (10:30)

Rejoice In the Lord Always

Anonymous, 16th Century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

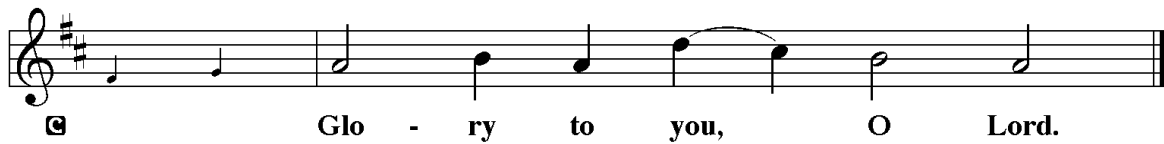
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke



John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"
⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

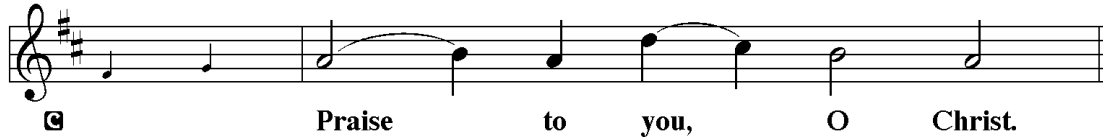
¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus “Jefferson”

ELW 254

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

A brief silence.

We rejoice in your saving presence this day, O God, for you promise to alleviate disasters and gather outcasts. Through us, bring relief to all for whom any calamity or catastrophe has created suffering and displacement. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your renewing presence this day, O God, for you give us your saving word that makes us die to sin and raises us to newness of life. Keep your church steadfast in your word and receptive to the ways of your Spirit among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your providing presence this day, O God, for you are the supplier of our every need. Provide warmth and food for all who lack such basic human needs, and use our hearts and hands as the means of your gracious provision. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your sustaining presence this day, O God, for in your goodness and mercy you bring forth the fruits of the earth. As field and farmland now rest in winter's night, may harvests again be bountiful after seedtime and summer's growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your strengthening presence this day, O God, for in you there is no fear of retribution. May those who worship in this place find confidence in the welcome of genuine community and the warmth of holy hospitality. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your comforting presence this day, O God, for you promise never to leave us or forsake us. Keep us in communion with all the saints (*especially Lucy, martyr, whom we commemorate today*), until that day when all tears will be wiped away and sorrow will be no more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

SOLO AT THE OFFERING (8:30)

But Who May Abide from Messiah

George F. Handel

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire.

Tim Flynn, bass

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING (10:30)

Glory Be To God from the Christmas Oratorio, Part V

J.S. Bach

Glory be to God. Glory be to God Almighty. Glory, thanks, and praise be given. All the world doth worship Thee, Thou that wilt our Father be: Thou that wilt henceforth grant our utmost longings and bring Thy children with joy unto heaven.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

**God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
From all that you have given us, receive these gifts,
signs of our thanksgiving and praise.
Fill us with good things at your table
that we may come to the help of all in need;
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.
Amen.**

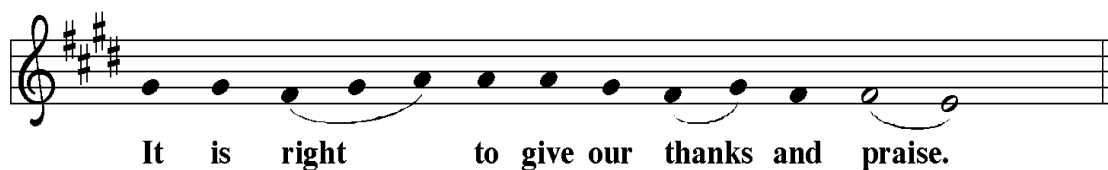
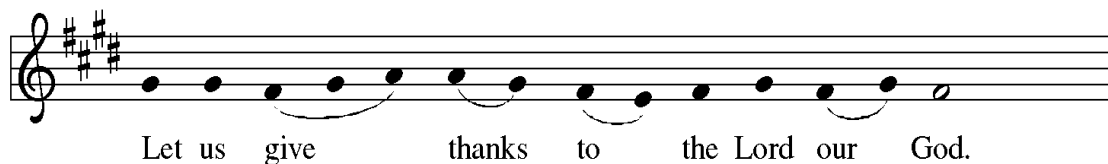
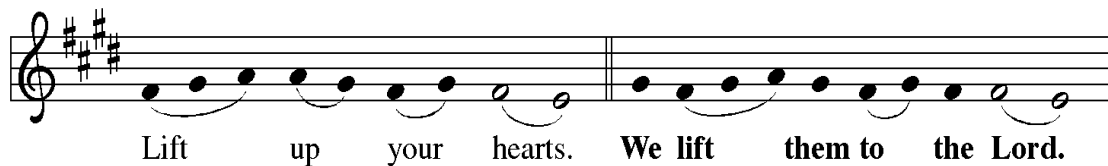
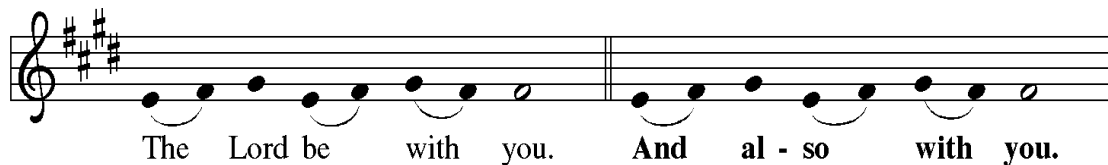
OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

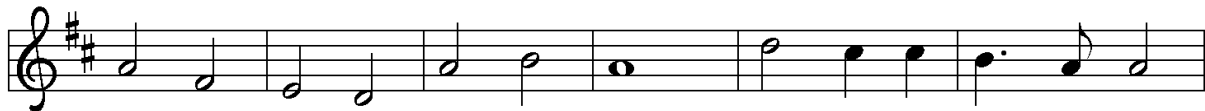
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; you comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

AGNUS DEI



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.

THE COMMUNION

SOLO AT COMMUNION (8:30)

The People that Walked in Darkness from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Tim Flynn, bass

COMMUNION MOTETS (10:30)*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

I Sat Down Under His Shadow

Edward C. Bairstow

I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**BLESSING**

The God of hope strengthen your hearts
as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
with all the saints.

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN*People, Look East "Besancon"*

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Statement

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Non-communing adults and children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. For those who are allergic to wheat, you may receive gluten-free wafers from the Pastor.

<i>HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP</i>

Congregational Council

Paul Bauchle, President Barbara Wozniak, Vice President
 Shirley Lawrence, Secretary Gretchen Hansen, Treasurer

Janice Bauchle, David Brace, Susan Bundt,
 Gail Camilleri, Daniel Culross, Paul Hoebel,
 Guy Huber, Thomas Johnson, Ken Kellner,
 Karen Koehler, John Knipler, Ellie Monday,
 Paul Nikischer, Tom Prohaska, Phillip Schlueter,
 Sue Spindler, Karen Stoelzle, Gary Thomas

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

James Bigham, Organist-Choirmaster
 Charles Rojek, Pastoral Assistant
 Pat Mohr, Parish Nurse (Home phone - 684-9165)
 Jeremiah Smith, Youth Ministry
 Linda Lipczynski, Parish Secretary
 Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
 John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
 Patrick Ryan, Steward of Buildings and Grounds
 Phillip Schlueter, Curator of the Organs
 Justin Pomietlarz, Youth Choir Director

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang
 The Rev. John A. Buerk
 The Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

<i>THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY</i>

SUNDAY, December 13, 2009 – Third Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
 9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)/ Crib Room/Nursery (CI)
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
 11:45 a.m. Chancel Choir (MR)

MONDAY, December 14, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR)
 7:00 p.m. Christmas trees delivered

TUESDAY, December 15, 2009

- 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus (MC)
 5:00 p.m. Lectio Divina (CH)
 7:00 p.m. Advent Program (FR)
 7:30 p.m. Yoga (SS)

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CR)
 12:00 Noon Trinity Lunch Bunch
 4:00 p.m. Decorating the Church and Chapel w/dinner to follow
 6:00 p.m. Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus (CH)
 6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, December 17, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Christian Action (FR)
 12:00 Noon Staff Christmas party
 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir (SS)
 6:00 p.m. Chapel Choir (MR)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)
 7:00 p.m. AA (RH)

FRIDAY, December 18, 2009

- 9:00 a.m. Poinsettias delivered

SATURDAY, December 19, 2009

- 9:00 a.m. Set up poinsettias

SUNDAY, December 20, 2009 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion w/chapel choir (CH)
 9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion w/youth choir (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)/ Crib Room/Nursery (CI)
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
 11:45 a.m. Chancel Choir (MR)

CH = Mansperger Chapel
 FR = Fellowship Room
 MR = Music Room
 SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
 FI = Fireside Room/Library
 PS = Pastor's Study
 SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
 MC = Main Church
 RH = Redeemer Hall
 YR = Youth Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Bang's Monday morning Bible Study will finish for the season tomorrow, December 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Education: Today representatives from Loaves and Fishes Dining Room will be presenting. Next Sunday (December 20) Roy Clare will present a Christmas music program. The Adult Education program will take a two-week break for the holidays, but will resume for the new year on January 10 with developer Rocco Termini, who has completed several successful downtown projects and has recently announced plans for the former AMA's flagship store on Main Street as well as the Lafayette Hotel.

The next yoga class for beginners will be held this Tuesday, December 15 at the church from 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. An offering of \$5 is suggested. Please see Uli MacDonald for more information.

Everyone is invited to join the Men's Group on Wednesday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m. to decorate the Christmas trees in the main church and chapel. Dinner will be provided for those who help decorate. The Men's Group will also continue collecting food and monetary donations for food baskets for the needy. The drive will continue through December 16.

From the Social Ministries Committee... Please select an ornament from the Angel Tree so that a student from School 17 will receive a special gift for Christmas. The gift should be returned along with the ornament and placed under the tree by Sunday, December 20th. Please share a Holy Trinity Christmas with these children.

Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias and wreaths which will be hung in the church and placed in the chancel for Christmas. Order forms are available in the narthexes or in the December issue of *Our Church Paper*.

Searching for the perfect gift idea? Look no further than ELCA Good Gifts. Not only will you provide a unique gift, you provide support for the mission and ministry of the church. Catalogs (blue) are in the narthex area or go online to www.elca.org/goodgifts.

“Worship to go” are looking for volunteers to join them once a month to local health care facilities on Sunday afternoons. They are in need of musicians and those who would like to help with the service. The first Sunday of the month they go to Tonawanda Manor at 2:00 p.m. The second Sunday of the month they are at Wedgewood at 2:30 p.m. and the fourth Sunday of the month they are at Winwood on Delaware at 2:00 p.m. Please call Sister Donna if you are able to help.

The Lenten Booklet will be coming up fast. The plan this year is to submit in writing, a family occasion that you can recall as particularly spiritually moving and a recipe from your family. We will canvas the Sunday School children, the Confirmation Class and the entire adult congregation. Drawings will also be acceptable if you have one to share. Please submit your entries via email to gcamilleri@kenton.k12.ny.us or written and handed in the offering plate. We will be accepting your entries until February 15th. Please call Gail Camilleri at 695-8764 if you should have a question.

The Social Ministries Committee will have hand-made crafts from the African Team Ministries for sale after both the 8:30 and 10:30 services on December 20th. Proceeds will be used to fill urgent needs of the residents of East Africa. Included will be care for orphans, drip irrigation systems for families, and jobs for unemployed women who make the crafts. Please feel free to browse after the coffee hour.

Greetings from Trinity Seminary, Columbus (and Grace Church, Buffalo on the weekends) - Tough language this week from John the Baptist; John calls out to an anxious people who would like nothing more than to escape from his call to repentance. “Doesn’t repentance mean...changing the way we do things?!” It came up in conversation that the definition of repentance is “transformation that results from seeing oneself from God’s point of view.” Now that is an anxiety-provoking prospect, unless of course, you happen to have lived a life without sin, doubt, shame, guilt, etc.... (see Buerk, John :) As we reflect on the year past, all the ups and downs, the things we have done and left undone, the people we have hurt and loved, as we repent and resolve to change again this year, let us keep always in our hearts that good news those gathered on the banks of the Jordan didn’t have that we do. The good news that in a little town just south of Jerusalem a child was born in a manger that not only called us to repent, but with love and forgiveness, showed us how. Grace and Peace, *Roger*



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Tuesdays in Advent, December 15 and 22 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 8:30 p.m., we will gather for dessert, coffee and conversation on the book of faith “Advent Reflections”. Please join us each week or any week. If you would like to pick up a copy of the Advent Reflections book in advance of the study, please see either Pastor.

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. Church Family service at Holy Trinity

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Communion service at Parkside

9:45 p.m. Preservice music at Holy Trinity with full choir and instruments

10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. Christmas service at Parkside

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At 8:30 a.m. the acolyte is Franz Ross. Lay reader is Marcia Haas. Communion assistant is Sue Fayle. Ushers are Dave and Patricia Ulrich.

At 10:30 a.m. the lay reader is John Knipler. Greeters are Elaine Smith and Robert and Nadine Sweitzer. Ushers are Ron Leiser (captain), Kristen Best, Penny Brusio, Michael Day, Alan Heiss, Patrick Mann, Edward Rockhill and Helen and Marty Wright. Communion Assistants are Charmaine Kaltrider, Sue Spindler, Graham Marks and Derek Marks. Worship assistants are Graham Marks and Derek Marks, crucifers; Lydia Webb, James Kryszczuk, Amanda Wright, Teddy Marks, Kara Kryszczuk and Jeremy Wright.

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Kreiner, Jr. and William E. Kreiner, III from the Family.

**PLEASE, TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS
DURING WORSHIP. THANK YOU.**

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