

Advent Midweek December 6, 2023



Trinity Lutheran Church
4200 Old Warren Road
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603
Phone - (870) 534-4316
E-mail - trinityowr@gmail.com
Web site - www.trinitypb.org/trinityorg
Bible Class/Sunday School 9:30
Sunday Worship Service 10:45

The Light of Grace
Week 1
The Light of Grace Hope: Zechariah

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. Psalm 39:7

OPENING HYMN 349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND

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: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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

People Amen.

(One purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath.)

Pastor Today we light the first of our Advent candles, the candle of hope.

People “O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7)

Pastor Across the centuries, the people of God waited in hope for the promised Messiah, the Savior. As the time came near for the promise to be fulfilled, the Lord sent an angel to tell the priest Zechariah that Zechariah and his wife would have a son. That son, to be named John, would announce the coming of the Messiah and prepare Israel to welcome the Savior.

People “O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”

Pastor John would proclaim the dawn of hope for Israel. He would baptize people as a sign of re-pentance, preparing them for the Savior, the Lamb of God, who was coming to take their sins away. When the right time came, God’s promise was fulfilled in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People “O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”

Pastor We have seen the promise fulfilled. The Savior has come! He has died and risen to set us free. Now we wait in hope for his return on the Last Day. Jesus has promised, “Surely I am coming soon!”

People “O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

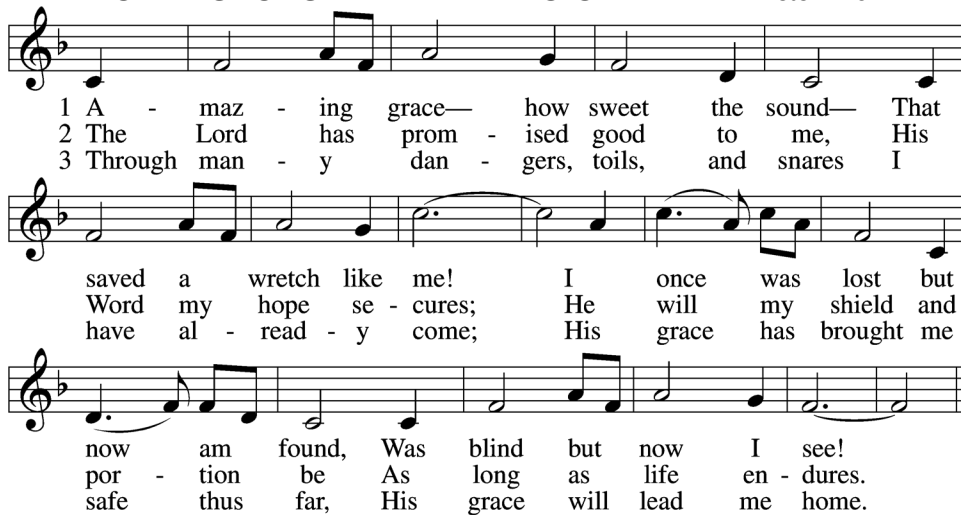
Pastor Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

People Almighty God, you have called us to a living hope in Jesus. Yet so often we do not reflect that hope in our lives. We turn away from the promises of your Word. We walk in our own selfish ways instead of following in Jesus' footsteps. We do not love others as we should, and we are not always willing to share our hope with the people around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Pastor God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior and for his sake forgives our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People "O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

HYMN OF RESPONSE 744 AMAZING GRACE sts. 1-3



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!
From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thy all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

READING *Isaiah 51:1–5*

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

Leader O Lord, have mercy on us.
People Thanks be to God.

READING *Romans 5:1–5*

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Leader O Lord, have mercy on us.
People Thanks be to God.

READING *Luke 1:67–79*

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people
 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David,
 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
 71 that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear,
 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 in the forgiveness of their sins,
 78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader O Lord, have mercy on us.
 People Thanks be to God.

352 LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD *st. 1*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 kept His word And at last to us did send
 Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

352 LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD *st. 3*

3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—



Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

People 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.

352 LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD *st. 6*



6 Then when You will come a - gain As the glo - rious



king to reign, I with joy will see Your face,



Free - ly ran - somed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYERS

Pastor Let us pray. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

People Hear our prayer, O Lord. Restore us, stir up Your might, and come to save us.

Pastor Lord over all the angels, hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world's commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

People Hear our prayer, O Lord. Restore us, stir up Your might, and come to save us.

Pastor Regard us, the fruitful vine You have planted, as we struggle in this dark world: Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, spiritual vitality, and confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

People Hear our prayer, O Lord. Restore us, stir up Your might, and come to save us.

Pastor By the blessed coming of Your Son, whose death purchased us as Your own people, grant these our prayers, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (Romans 5:1-2; Romans 15:13)

Pastor Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

People Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Pastor May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

People Amen.

332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



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
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (sts. 3, 6): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000255 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain