

# Serving the Church

## TODAY—November 29, 2015

**Preacher:** Intern Jennifer Michael  
**Assistant:** Intern Jennifer Michael  
**Lector:** 8:00AM Morgan Mathison  
10:30AM Carolyn Hazlett  
**Acolyte:** 8:00AM Madie Jablin  
10:30AM Kent Henry, Jr.  
**Ushers:** 8:00AM Mark Rehwaldt  
Jennie Lawrence  
10:30AM Steve & Cindy Barrett  
**Greeters:** 8:00AM Al & Bobbie Schimeck  
10:30AM Jason & Trey Sherwood  
**Nursery:** 8:00AM Kelcey Anderson  
10:30AM Rosalind Kidwell

## NEXT WEEK—December 6, 2015

**Preacher:** Pr. Rachel Larson  
**Assistant:** Intern Jennifer Michael  
**Lector:** 8:00AM Andrea Toven  
10:30AM Steve Barrett  
**Acolyte:** 8:00AM Eli Jablin  
10:30AM Ian Meyer  
**Ushers:** 8:00AM Laura Buckner  
Morgan Mathison  
10:30AM Jason & Trey Sherwood  
**Greeters:** 8:00AM Mark Rehwaldt  
Jennie Lawrence  
10:30AM Shirley Heggie  
Mike Smith  
**Nursery:** 8:00AM Hailey Anderson  
10:30AM Kate Jablin

**Stewards:** Steve Boss & Kris Oolman

**Altar Guild:** Mike Nutter

**Coffee Fellowship:** Trey Sherwood

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## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 820720  
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: [telc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:telc@qwestoffice.net)

Pastor ..... Rachel Larson  
Intern.....Jennifer Michael  
Congregation President ..... Andrea Toven  
Organist..... Meng Xu  
Choir Director ..... Larry Hazlett



*This is Christ's church...*  
*There is a place for you here.*

# Sunday, November 29, 2015

## Service of Holy Eucharist

To all who join in worship, we are happy that you are here today!

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament with us by intinction. White grape juice is available in the crystal chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would like us to bring the bread and wine to you, please notify one of the ushers.
- Nursery attendants are available during worship just off the South Lobby area for children ages 5 years and younger. If you arrive and no one is in the nursery, please notify one of the ushers to get the attendant.
- Pew Pads are located at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass them down to the end of the row so we can note that you attended worship with us today. If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our staff, please inform Pastor Rachel or Intern Jennifer.

**WELCOME... We pray your worship time is enriching for your spiritual life.**

### 1st Sunday in Advent:

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN: “Light One to Watch for Messiah”**  
(ELW 240, st. 1 only)

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,



### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## A WORD ABOUT THE GOSPEL TODAY

### Stand and Raise Your Heads

In classrooms all over the world, students are taught to raise their hands if they have something to say. This is an orderly way to let their teachers know that they are ready to ask or answer a question. Raised hands show that we have been paying attention and are prepared to participate in the classroom discussion.

If raising your hand signals your readiness to speak, imagine what Jesus has in mind when he calls us to stand up and raise our heads. In the midst of distressing signs of upheaval and conflict in the heavens, the oceans, and among the nations, Jesus says: stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28).

The Advent season invites us to begin a new church year by creating our own signs—not signs of upheaval and distress, but rather signs and symbols and songs of hope and anticipation of the coming of the Lord. The world always seems full of turmoil and unexpected change, and Jesus wants us to know more than what the headlines tell us is going on. In the midst of the world’s fears and uncertainties, Jesus stirs the power of our faith so that we can recognize how he is coming to be with us.

Advent is our signal to one another that Jesus is near. Advent is our great reminder to prepare to meet him. Advent turns us inward as a community set apart to celebrate his coming, and Advent also turns us outward to care for the world he promises to redeem, restore, and renew. As we embrace this wonderful season, we will learn more and more about the amazing things God has promised to do in our hearts, in our congregations, and in our world. Stand up and raise your heads. You have something to say.

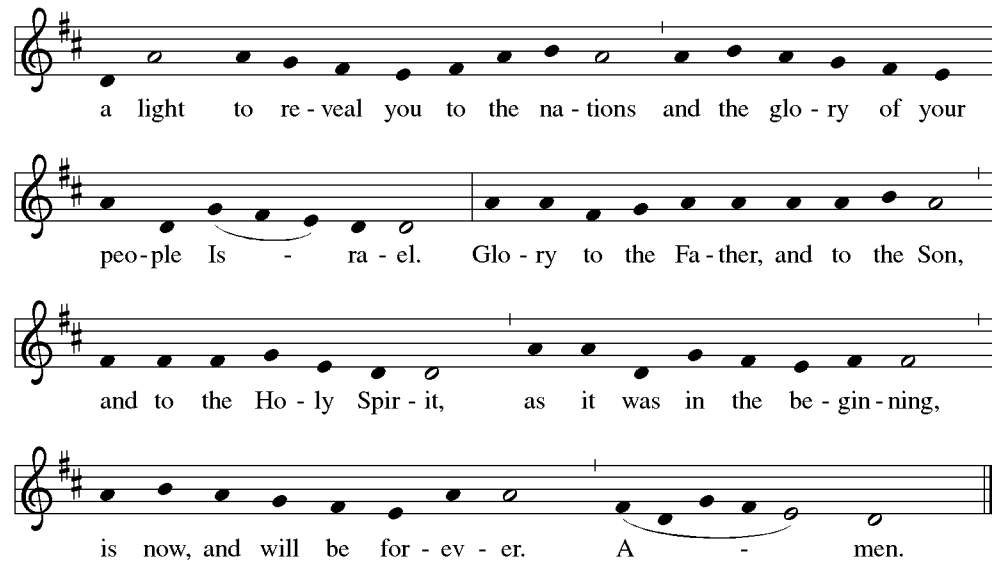
## COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

### Clement—Monday, November 23, 2015

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul’s letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

### Isaac Watts—Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Thought by many to be the greatest hymn writer in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.  
 God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

May God direct your ways in peace,  
 make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
 and strengthen your hearts  
 until the coming of our Lord Jesus.  
 Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



**PARISH SHARING TIME**

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly’s participation in God’s mission in the world.*

**SENDING HYMN: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!” (ELW 246)**

*The assembly stands.*

rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
 when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
 Enlighten us with your grace,  
 and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
 Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
 whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

*Light the first candle.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
 the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
 the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
 the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.  
**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,  
**we lift up our souls.**  
**You know us through and through;**  
**we confess our sins to you.**  
**Remember not our sins;**  
**remember us with your steadfast love.**  
**Show us your ways;**  
**teach us your paths;**  
**and lead us in justice and truth,**  
**for the sake of your goodness**  
**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, come with joy  
 and draw water from the well of salvation.  
 Remember the gift of baptism:  
 your sin is washed away in the name of ✙ Jesus;  
 you belong to Christ;  
 you are anointed to serve.  
 Stand up and raise your heads!  
 The reign of God is near.  
**Amen.**

*The service continues with gathering song.*



GATHERING HYMN: “*Fling Wide the Door*” (ELW 259)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

KYRIE

*A Kyrie is sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



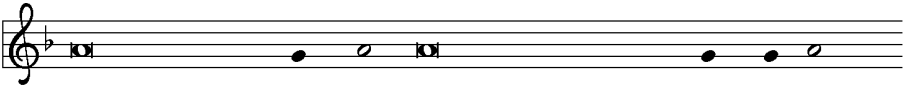
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“*My Lord, What a Morning*” (ELW 438)

“*Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*” (ELW 464)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

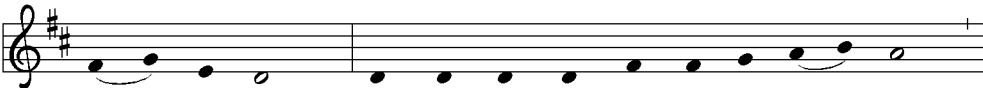
*The assembly stands to receive the blessing.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION HYMN: “*Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go*”



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has



been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion



which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.  
A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

(10:30AM)

**ANTHEM: "Before the Marvel of This Night" by Carl Schalk**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In

those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

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

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**  
*The psalm for the day is sung.*

- <sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- <sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**
- <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- <sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the  
sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- <sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.
- <sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

- <sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
- <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died (*especially*). Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

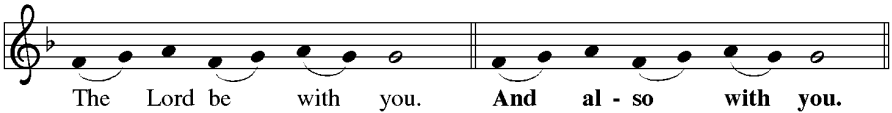
*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*  
*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING**


**CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY:**  
**“Blessed Be the God of Israel” (ELW 250, st. 1 & 2 only)**  
*The assembly stands and sings the offertory hymn as the gifts are brought forward.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**  
*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.*  
Let us pray.  
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

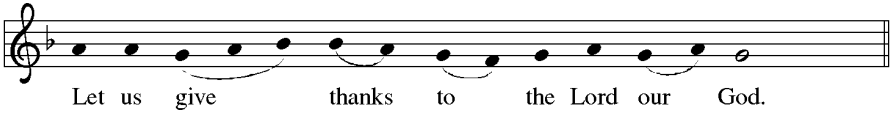
**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

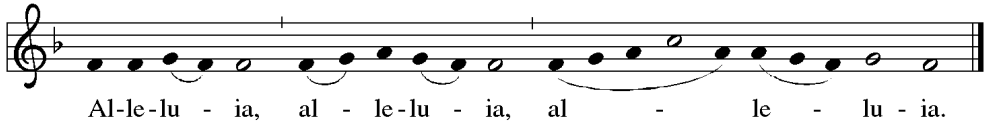


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

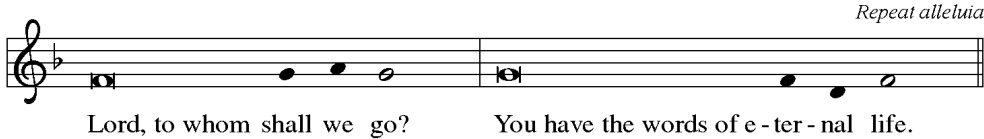
may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**  
God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”  
<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.



<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

*All children are welcome to come forward to hear a special message for them.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” (ELW 436)**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

*A brief silence.*

Come to the church, saving God. Grant to your people your redemption. Stand with all Christians who are persecuted for the faith. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Come to the nations of the world, sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice. Bring peace to Jerusalem. We pray for peace in places torn apart by unrest and war, especially Israel, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and others we name..... Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray especially for . . . . Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*