

LAST sunday

of the church year

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | *Saline, Michigan*

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP******November 26, 2023***

**Thank you** for joining us in God’s house today! We cordially ask that our Guests sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a “Let’s Get Acquainted” card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

**THANK OFFERING:**  Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord’s work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

**Restrooms** are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**Young Families / Toddler Bags** – We are **GLAD YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN** to our worship service. Jesus said: *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* We know that having little children in church can be a challenge, but **DO NOT WORRY** about it. Many of your fellow worshippers have been in your shoes and are just happy you brought your children with you. For your convenience, we have reserved the back rows of seating for parents with small children. These areas provide more flexibility for your family, as well as, easy access to move downstairs if necessary. A closed-circuit TV system allows families to continue participating in the service while downstairs. Pre-school **toddler bags** and **children’s bulletins** are available for their enjoyment. Ask an usher for one to use during the service and please return the toddler bag afterwards.

**Welcome to our Favorite Hymns Service!**

Over the past month, members have had a chance to submit their favorite hymns. Over several sections of today’s worship, we will be using some of these hymns to be sung by the congregation. To make sure we sing as many as possible, we normally will sing the first stanza of the hymns selected, unless otherwise stated. Thank you to all those who provided their input! We hope at least one of yours favorite hymns will be sung today.

**Ringing of Church Bells**

**Words of Welcome**

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Invocation**

The grace of our Lord 🕇 Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be

with you.

**And also with you.**

**Confession of Sins**

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts.

Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in**

**my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For**

**this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and**

**trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning

sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son 🕇 and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil’s temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan’s lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; we ask it through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

**Old Testament Lesson Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

**9**I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire. **10**A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

**13**I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. **14**To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**13**We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. **14**Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

**15**In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. **16**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17**Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. **18**Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:31-46**

**31**“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32**All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33**He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. **34**Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **35**For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. **36**I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

**37**“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? **38**When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? **39**When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

**40**“The King will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’

**41**“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. **42**For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. **43**I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.’

**44**“Then they will also answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?’

**45**“At that time he will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ **46**And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Confession of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

**The Prayer of the Church**

**The 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.**

**The Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

Serving in Worship

**Officiant** Pastor Natsis

**Organist** Marcia Marion Acckling

**Deacons** (8:30) Duane Mason and Dave Stevenson

(11:00) Jeff Neuburger and Robert Niethammer

**Ushers** (8:30) Tim Phelps

(11:00) Ron Zahn

**Altar Guild** Margaret Hoeft and Brenda Stevenson

**Videographer** Jake Vershum

