December 1, 2013
First Sunday of Advent

JESUS IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

In the name of the risen and reigning Lord Jesus Christ welcome: to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; to all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; and to whomever will come.

We assemble together each Lord's Day as a gathering of God's children with each other, but primarily, as a meeting of the triune God with His chosen people. God is present with us by His omnipresence but, much more intimately, as the faithful covenant Savior. Christ is the Mediator by whom alone we can come unto God. He is the head of the church. He rules over public worship. In corporate worship – when God meets with His people, Christ with His bride, the Spirit with His temple – we receive God's grace through the Word and sacrament, and we respond to Him with thanksgiving, faith, and love.

Lord's Day Service – First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2013

Prelude – We silently prepare our hearts to worship our Lord.

Entrance – God Calls Us to Worship

* Call to Worship
  Isaiah 52:7-10
* Hymn of Praise
  Psalter, #122B
  I Was Glad to Hear Them Saying

* Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Minister:  Behold, you King comes to you!                  Zechariah 9:9
People:   O come, let us worship Him!                     Psalm 95:6
Minister:  In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!
People:   Amen!
Minister:  The Lord be with you!                         Matthew 28:19
People:   And also with You!
Minister:  A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord,
People:   Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!  Isaiah 40:3
Minister:  According to his promise, we wait for a new heavens and a new earth,
People:   In which righteousness dwells!
Minister:  Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Purification – We Confess Our Sins to God

O most holy, righteous, and gracious God, we acknowledge that You have appointed death to be the wages of sin. We confess that we are sinners, being conceived in sin and by nature children of wrath. In sinful pride we have displeased and dishonored You. You are the King of all the world and Your laws are holy, just and good. But we have denied You our due subjection and obedience, being unruly and self-willed, serving the things of the flesh, and making provision for its lusts. We have sinned secretly and openly, in thought and in deed, ignorantly and presumptuously; and all of our sin we have committed in Your sight. But for the glory of Your mercy You have sent Your Son to save us from our sin. You have promised us forgiveness of sin through His blood, if we believe in Him, and by true repentance turn unto You. Lord have mercy upon us. Amen.

(Silent prayers of confession are offered.)

Minister:  Now lift up your heads and hear the good news! God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us. He has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us of all our sins.
People: Thanks be to God! Our sins are forgiven in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Ascension – God Consecrates Us by His Word

Minister: Lift up your hearts! Psalm 86:4
People: We lift them up to the Lord! Lam 3:41
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! Psalm 92:1
People: It is proper and right to do so! Psalm 86:4

Minister: Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. For you have proven your faithfulness in fulfilling the promise of the birth and ministry of Jesus, and because of this we anticipate the completion of your plan for us and your world in the future. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing:

* Hymn of Preparation Trinity Hymnal, #272
  Behold! The Mountain of the Lord!

* Prayer
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* Lesson from the Old Testament Isaiah 51:1-16
Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

* Lesson from the New Testament John 14
Minister: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.
People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon "Our Christmas Comfort and Joy"

Tribute – We Offer Ourselves through Tithes

* Hymn of Consecration Trinity Hymnal, #119
  O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee

*Presentation & Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Prayers of the Church Requests & Lord’s Prayer

Peace – We Commune with God

Words of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper 1 Corinthians 10:15-17
We Confess Our Faith in the Triune, Incarnate God Creed (inside hymnal cover)
* Hymn of Thanksgiving Trinity Hymnal, #145
  Come, Though Long Expected Jesus

Benediction – God Commissions & Blesses Us

* The Lord’s Commission of Us 2 Peter 3:13-14
* We Receive God’s Blessing, His Good Word to Us 2 Peter 3:18
* We Bless the LORD, Lifting Our Hands and Voices to Him Gloria Patri
* Threefold Amen & Postlude

LORD’S SUPPER

We observe Communion, or the Lord’s Supper, weekly in our midst.

We believe it is worthily received by those who:
1. Have been baptized in the name of the Triune God (Matt 28:18-20);
2. Do profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel (Rom 10:9-10);
3. Do live in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit and endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Jesus Christ (Gal 5:16-26); and
4. Are commuting members in good standing in an evangelical church (1 Cor 10:1-6).

If these things are all true, we rejoice with you and invite you to commune with us at the Lord’s Supper. If any of these are not true of you, we ask that you refrain. We invite you to speak to one of the Elders if you have doubts or questions regarding any of these beliefs, or if you are interested in learning more about Trinity.

Though collections are not ordinarily taken during a service, giving is a vital element of worship. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the basket at the rear of the church. (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

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Sermon Notes – December 1, 2013

Our Christmas Comfort and Joy
Text: John 14

_____________ Comfort For Us Is That Our Eternal Home Is With Him. (1-6)

Our LORD Tells Of His Oneness With The _________________. (7-15)

Our LORD Promises the Help and Indwelling of The _______ ________. (16-31)

Applications from Scripture:

1. Our Lord’s highest test and grasp of saving faith is His revelation of the holy _________________.

2. A typical reaction of unbelief in men is to confess ________ ____________ and therefore _______ ____________ .

3. God’s revelation of the __________ is a powerful spur and encouragement to saving faith. We should expect the living God to be _______ our heads.

4. ____________ is the main theme and thrust of John Chapter 14.

5. A delight to search out the countless applications of the ______________ and the _________ in creation flows from knowledge of the holy Trinity.

6. Remember Christ’s ______ ________ is that we will _______ ________.

7. Awareness of our soul’s great need should be matched by our longing for God’s comfort.

Announcements

This Morning
Rev. Dale Dykema will be administering the Word and Sacrament this morning.

Lessons & Carols
Ladies who want to sing in the Christmas Lessons & Carols service, please gather at the front at 11:15, to practice The Holly and the Ivy. Each Sunday until the service, a practice will be held at this time before Sunday School.

Singing Practice
Singing practice for the congregation will be held at 11:30.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Review
Catechism review for this week:

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?
A. In the second petition, (which is, Thy kingdom come,) we pray, That satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?
A. In the third petition, (which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,) we pray, That God by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Advent
The season of Advent begins next Sunday and continues four weeks until Christmas Eve. "Advent" means "coming" or "appearing" and has reference both to the coming(s) of Christ. Here is a link to great Advent devotionals that you can copy and use with your family: http://www.crechurches.org/resources/2008_adventdevotionals.pdf.

Ladies Study
The 2nd Annual Ladies Advent Party will be held on 12/9 in lieu of the regular December study time. See insert. Today is the deadline to let Sandy know if you will participate in the cookie exchange at the Christmas Party. Study will resume on Monday, January 13th.

Save the Date
- December 29 – Lessons & Carols service, Sunday night
- December 31 – New Year’s eve fellowship

Set-up Teams
Teams should arrive at 9:00 am Sunday mornings. If your family cannot set-up on your assigned week, please swap with another family and notify both team leaders.

NEXT WEEK:
Team 4 December 8 S Reich*, Burie, Gerth, Hammer

FOLLOWING WEEKS:
Team 1 December 15 K Dykema*, D Dykema, Greenwald, Jens, Kelling, Zitzke
Team 2 December 22 J Hummel*, Dietzel, B Dykema, Nagle, Ruchti
Team 3 December 29 J Pennington*, Cox, K Hummel, Nader, N Pennington