



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Gathering in the Name of the Triune God

A Southeastern Wisconsin PCA (Presbyterian Church of America) church.

December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christus Victor

The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us. We symbolize Christ's Lordship with purple. Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are purple. During the Advent season we pray for and reflect upon the ways in which Christ our King comes to serve us.

Lord's Day Service – December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Entrance – God Calls Us to Worship

* *Hymn of Praise*

(See insert)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you!

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

People: For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

Pastor: A voice cries in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord,

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Purification – We Confess Our Sins to God

Beloved, let us make confession to the holy Lord God, and let everyone acknowledge with me his sin and guilt.

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to rescue your captive people; Surely you have done great things for us; Yet we continue to ignore what you have done. We turn our backs on what you are doing, and we forget about what you will do; Forgive us of our sinful apathy; grant to us the assurance of salvation; cause your Holy Spirit to work in us genuine repentance and wholehearted obedience.

(Silence for self-examination and personal confession of sin)

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

Arise, lift up your heads and hear the comforting words of the Gospel! (Isaiah 40:1-2a) Our heavenly Father, in His great mercy, has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake pardons and rescues you from all your sins in order to present you spotless before His glory with great joy!

Thanks be to God! Our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. AMEN!

* *Hymn of Response*

Trinity Hymnal, #148

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (v 1, 2)

Ascension – God Consecrates Us by His Word

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Pastor: 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have given us a new revelation of your glory so that knowing you in the Person of your Son, we may be drawn to love you and your people. Therefore, we praise you by joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your Name...

* *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

* *Hymn of Preparation*

Trinity Hymnal, #148
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (v 3, 4)

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

New Testament Lesson

Acts 14:8-20

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

* **Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:5-38

Pastor: The Gospel of Lord Jesus.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

* **Prayer**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen!

Sermon "The Explosive & Confusing Effects of the Gospel at Lystra"

Tribute – We Offer Ourselves through Tithes

* *Hymn of Consecration*

Trinity Hymnal, #153
Behold, a Branch Is Growing

* *Presentation & Dedication of Tithes & Offerings*

Prayers of the Church

Requests & Lord's Prayer

Peace – We Commune with God

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

We Confess Our Faith in the Triune, Incarnate God

Creed (Inside hymnal cover)

* *Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Trinity Hymnal, #157
It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Benediction – God Commissions & Blesses Us

* *The Lord's Commission of Us*

1 John 5:19-21

* *We Receive God's Blessing, His Good Word to Us*

Jude 24, 25

* *We Bless the Lord, Lifting Our Hands and Voices to Him*

Doxology

* *Announcements*

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 (Ro 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 communing 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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