Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

ROMANS: The Theology of the Gospel

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-6263 www.christlcms.org Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor Amanda Adams, DCE



<u>As We Gather</u>

Please take time to fill out the fellowship pad located near the center aisle in your pew. If you have any prayer requests, feel free to use a prayer request card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate after the sermon. (For those joining us online, please contact the church office.) We will include these requests in our prayers during worship and share them with our prayer chain (if desired).

Holy Communion

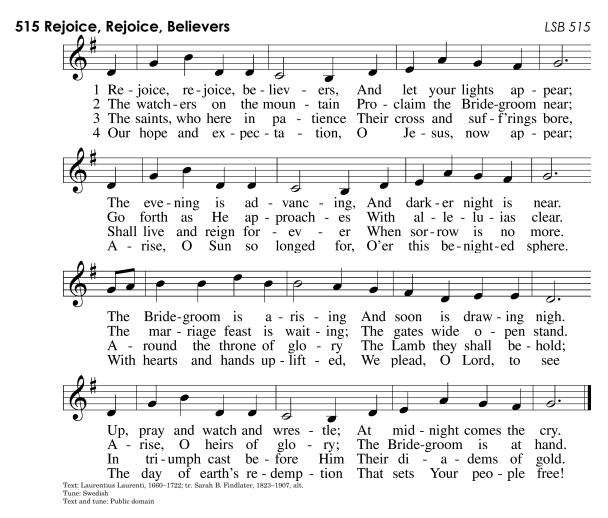
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

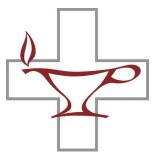
For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.



Welcome and Opening Prayer



Stand



Divine Service Setting Four, page 203

+ Confession and Absolution +

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, "To absolve of sin and wrongdoing," more specifically, to affirm God's forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

 \mathbb{P} In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 203

- \mathbf{P} Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- ▶ Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 203

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Service of the Word

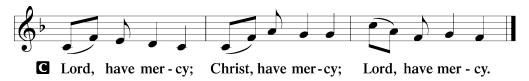
Introit

- **P** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
- **G** at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- **P** How lovely is your dwelling place,
- **C O** LORD of hosts!
- **P** Behold our shield, O God;
- **C** look on the face of your anointed!
- **P** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
- **C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- **P** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.
- **G** No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- **P** O LORD of hosts,
- **C** blessèd is the one who trusts in you! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- **P** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
- **G** at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

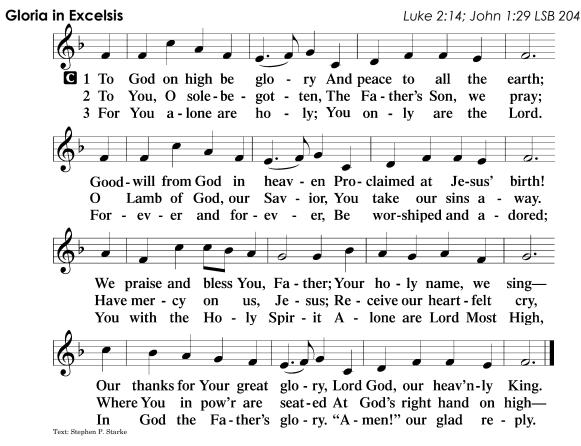
Kyrie

Mark 10:47 204

A Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy!" A brief prayer not only imploring God's mercy but rejoicing in it through Jesus Christ.







Salutation and Collect of the Day

"Salutation" is a word from Latin meaning, "to salute" or "to greet." "Collect" (KAH-lekt), a brief structured prayer, usually consisting of five parts: address to God, basis for the prayer, petition, desired benefit or result, and trinitarian conclusion. The Collect of the Day also "collects" the message of the day's Gospel reading.

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Old Testament Reading

A The Old Testament Reading is from Amos, chapter 5.

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him. or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Epistle

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 15.

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May 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.

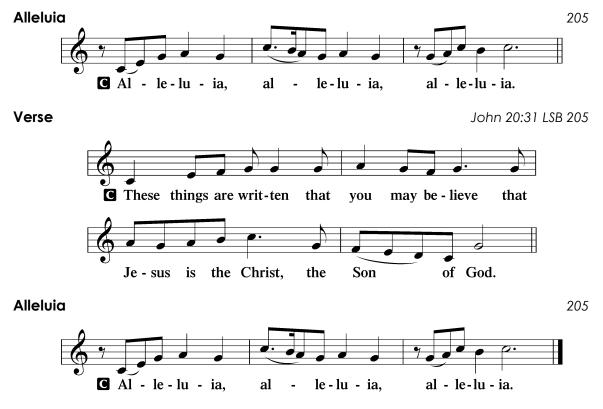
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

 ${\ensuremath{\mathbb P}}$ ${\ensuremath{\mathbb T}}$ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, С 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 Marv. 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.

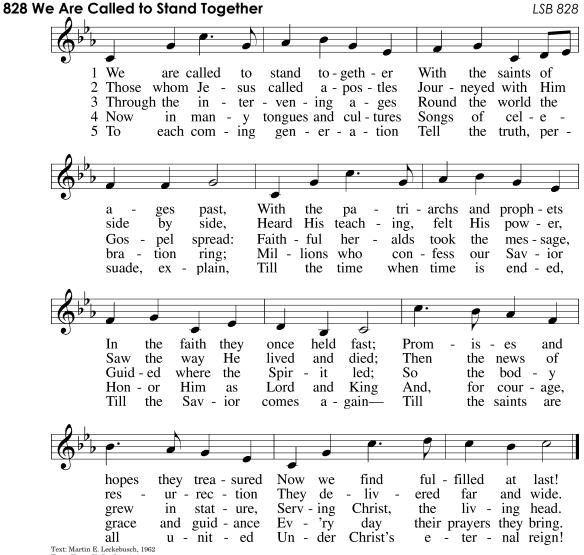
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins. the resurrection of the body. and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Matthew 19:14; Mark 13:13-15; Luke 18:16 Children are invited to join Amanda Adams, our Director of Christian Education, at the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.





Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948

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Sermon



Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving through Vanco at **bit.ly/GivingChristLCMS** for a one-time or recurring gift. You may also download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app and search for Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Direct links and additional information are available on the church website **(christlcms.org/giving)**.



1 Timothy 2:1-4

For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).

Stand

Reception of New Members by Transfer/Profession of Faith (8:00 only)

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond, **"Hear our prayer."**

- **P** ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 208

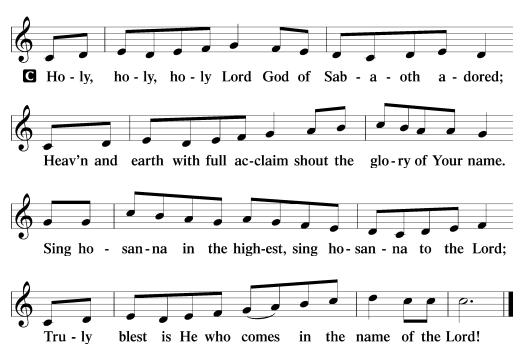
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 208



(SAHNK-toose), "Sanctus" is Latin for "holy".

Prayer of Thanksgiving

 ■ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a lifegiving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

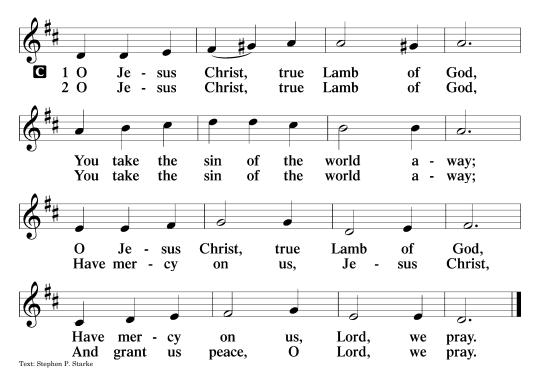
Pax Domini

(PAKS DOH-mee-nee), Latin for "peace of the Lord" (John 20:19).

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

(AHG-noose DAY-ee). Latin for "Lamb of God."



Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. Then they will distribute it to those who cannot come up to the altar rail due to physical ailments. Following that the ushers will dismiss the people from their pews to go to the altar rail. The congregation will be ushered down the middle aisle to go up to the rail and when dismissed from there will use the side aisle to return to their seats. All are invited up to receive a blessing.



525 Crown Him with Many Crowns LSB 525 1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne; 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born, 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side, 4 Crown Him the Lord of life. Who tri-umphed o'er the grave 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n. En-throned in worlds a - bove. Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own. Whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won Which now His brow a-dorn: Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri-fied. And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save. Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love. A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And of the mys-tic rose, Yet Fruit of that rose the stem. The an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But No glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who His Crown Him with man - v crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall: Crown hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty. root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem. down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys-ter-ies so bright. e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may died die. Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all. Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

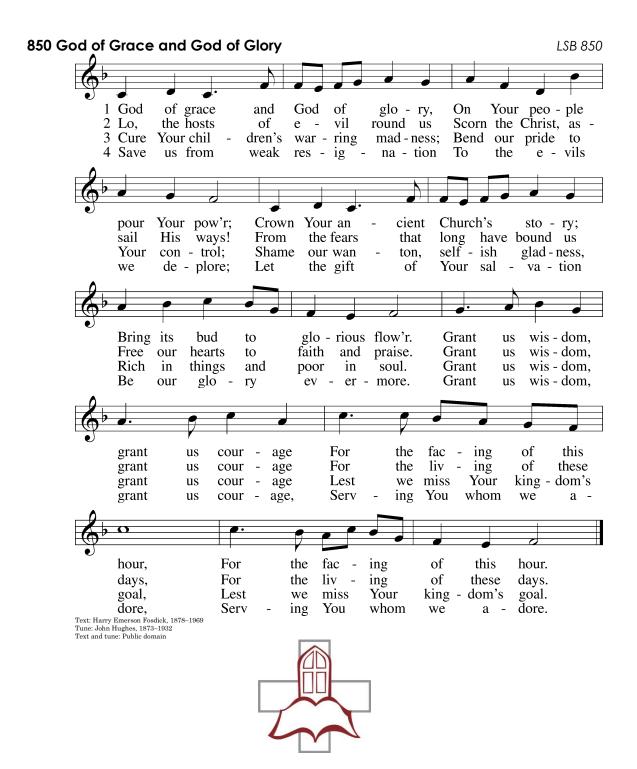
Text and tune: Public domain



696 O God, My Faithful God LSB 696 faith - ful True foun-tain ev - er 1 0God, my God, flow ing, 2 Grant me the strength to With read - y heart and will do ing 3 Keep me from say - ing That lat - er need re - call words ing: With kind - ly words and 4 Lord, let me win my foes ac tions, per-fect gifts be-stow With - out whom noth - ing A11 is, ing: You com-mand, What - ev - er My call-ing here ful - fill ing; Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall ing: find good friends And let me For coun-sel and cor - rec tion. a health - y with - in Give me frame. And have may I That I do what Ĭ should While trust - ing You bless to But when with - in my place Ι must and ought to speak, You have taught, То Help me, as love both great and small Α con-science free from blame. Α soul un - stained bv sin. The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess. my words give Then to grace Lest Ι of fend the weak. Your Spir - it's And by might To live all. in peace with Let me depart this life And on that final day 56 When all the dead are waking. Confiding in my Savior; By grace receive my soul Stretch out Your mighty hand, That it may live forever; My deathly slumber breaking. Then let me hear Your voice. And let my body have Redeem this earthly frame, A quiet resting place Within a Christian grave; And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name. And let it sleep in peace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes... Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and tune: Public domain







Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Tune: Welsh

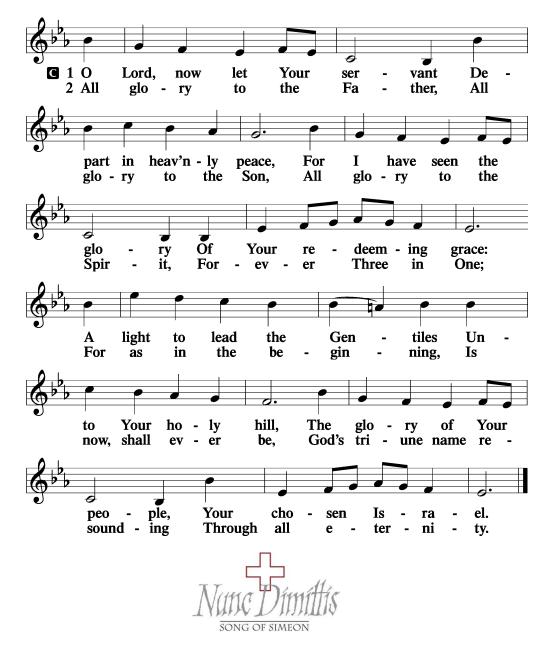
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199; Tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32 LSB 211

(NUNK dih-MIH-tuss). Latin for "now [let your servant] depart," from the Song of Simeon.



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus

icamus (beh-neh-dih-KAH-moose), Latin for "bless we [the Lord]." We give thanks to God for everything He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

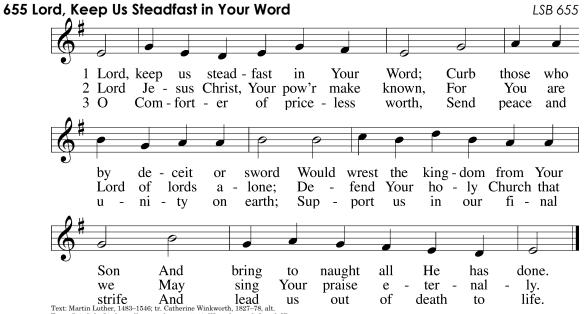
Benediction

A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.

Sit





Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

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-- Week at a Glance --

Sunday November 12	9:00 am 9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:15 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Veterans Day Quilt Giveaway & Cinnamon Rolls Sunday School (children & adults) Jr. Youth (4 th -6 th grades) Youth Group (7 th -12 th grades) College/Young Adult Group (ages 18-25)		
Monday November 13				
Tuesday November 14		LWML Meeting Elders Meeting		
Wednesday November 15	5:15 pm 5:55 pm 6:05 pm	Midweek Confirmation Midweek – Meal (Chicken Pot Pie) Midweek – Worship Midweek – Classes Midweek – Choir		
Thursday November 16	2:00 pm	Chair Aerobics		
Friday November 17	1:30 pm	Young at Heart Kansas District Youth Gathering		
Saturday November 18	10:00 am	Men's Zoom Bible Study Kansas District Youth Gathering		
Sunday November 19		Worship Service Sunday School (children & adults)		
		Poinsettia Order Deadline Kansas District Youth Gathering		

Celebrating

Birthdays: Bev C. (12th); Thad C., Meridith H., Holden T. (13th); Mary C. (14th); Benjamin A., Kim M., Justin M. (15th); Aaron B. (18th); Dustin B., Cindy F. (19th)
Baptism Birthdays: Sam R. (15th); Parker R., Duane S. (17th); Scott G., Rachel M. (18th); Dustin B. (19th)

Anniversaries: Denny & Liz J. (12th); Dave & Michelle J. (16th); Jerry & Emagene M. (19th)

Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Placed for a Purpose (with Pastor Ben) – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym) A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Meeting Room near Gym

Children/Youth Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Children (Pre-K through 6^{th} grade) – Upstairs Education Wing Youth (7^{th} - 12^{th} grades) – Basement Youth Room

Midweek at Christ (Wednesday)

- 4:00 pm Confirmation (6th, 7th, 8th grades) 5:15 pm – Meal (Free!) 5:55 pm – Worship (Brief service including prayer and a Bible reading)
- 6:05 pm Classes (Christian education for all ages)

7:00 pm – Choir

Saturday Bible Studies

9:30 am monthly – Women's Bible Study (contact LaJean Rinker or the church office) 10:00 am weekly – Men's Zoom Bible Study (contact Eric Turner or the church office)



New Member

Please welcome Chase Null and Cindy Wilson, who are joining our congregation's membership at the 8 AM worship service this morning. Introduce yourself and say hello!

Worship Services on 11/19

Please note that there will not be communion during our worship services next Sunday, November 19th. Pastor Ben will be leading the worship service at the Kansas District Youth Gathering.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study - BEGINS TODAY!

Today, Pastor's Sunday morning class will begin a new 4-week study entitled Placed for a Purpose: Serving Our Neighbors in Church, State, and Home. In this study, we'll look at the vocation of faithful steward and explore what that means in the places we live out our callings: church, state, and home. All are encouraged to join us!

Veterans Day

In honor of those who have served our country, we have several things planned for this morning!

- *Quilt Giveaway* Marsha Smith has generously made and donated a patriotic quilt for us to give away to one of our congregation's veterans! We will hold the drawing for the quilt during the announcements after our 8 AM service that morning.
- *Cinnamon Rolls* The Board of Evangelism will be offering cinnamon rolls in lieu of donuts that morning. All donations will benefit the residents of the VA hospital here in Topeka, funding gift cards for various needs they may have.
- *Greeting Cards* Each of our veterans here at Christ will receive a handmade card, thanking them for their service. Watch your mailbox!

Poinsettia Orders

It's time to place your poinsettia orders! Please use the green form in the bulletin to order poinsettias to adorn our altar and sanctuary throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please place the form in the offering plate with your payment. If you are paying online though Vanco, please still turn in the green form, and indicate on it that you are paying online. Order deadline is Sunday, November 19th. The Altar Guild thanks you for your support!

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Save the date! Our Thanksgiving worship service will once again be on the TUESDAY before the holiday. Please put Tuesday, November 21st at 7 PM on your calendar.

Children' Christmas Program

We'd love to have your child join us for our Children's Christmas Program! Rehearsals begin TODAY during Sunday School and continue each Sunday through Dec. 3rd, with a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 9th at 10 AM. The program will be held Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 AM (with a potluck meal to follow). Please contact Amanda Adams if your child plans to participate.

Bible Reading Challenge

If you've been keeping up with your reading calendar for our Bible Reading Challenge, you know that this challenge is wrapping up soon! Beginning on Sunday, November 26th, you may bring your Q4 completion slip to church, certifying that YES! You read the entire Bible in one year! Once you bring your completion slip to church, you will receive your completion prize (\$5 gift card to Blackbird Coffee) in your church mailbox the following week.

Not quite caught up? Keep on reading – you'll have several extra weeks to finish the challenge! The deadline to turn in your completion slip is Sunday, December 17^{th} – we will hold the grand prize drawing (for a \$50 restaurant gift card plus a \$50 CPH gift card) on Wednesday, December 20^{th} during our Midweek Christmas Cookie Night.

Sanctuary Renovations – FULLY FUNDED!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the sanctuary renovation fund – our financial goal has been met! Construction work will begin as soon as scheduling allows.

Household Items & Supplies for Ukrainian Family

We are still waiting for Oleg and his family to cross the border from Ukraine into Poland. Once they arrive in Poland, we will be able to purchase airline tickets for their journey to the USA.

We have a list of supplies and furniture needed to furnish an apartment for the family once they arrive in Topeka. Please sign up to donate new or gently used items. You may access this list on the homepage of our website (christlcms.org). Do NOT bring the donations to church at this time. Once we have purchased airline tickets for the family, we will be better able to set an official arrival and move-in date for them. We will contact those who have signed up at that point in time.

We will also have volunteer opportunities at that time for members willing to welcome the family at the airport, cleaning/furnishing the apartment ahead of their arrival, cooking a few meals, and more. Again, once we have an estimated arrival date, we will be able to give more information on these volunteer opportunities.

Please continue to keep Oleg, Alina, and Oleg (Jr.) in your prayers.

Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Luke H., Don L., Jerry M., Jean (Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Vikki N., Matt N., Virginia C., Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Ted M., Garry N., Mark (Carol J.'s friend), Wayne B., David (Sondra K.'s son), Kim (friend of the Micheels), Dick H., Betty H., Dorothy (Wayne K.'s sister-in-law), Nick (Hannah M.'s cousin), Lila N., Darleen C., Brandon B., Dennis L., Marsha S., James (father-in-law of Norlinda C.), Craig R., Craig R. II, Natalie O., Doris T., Donna B., Lee M., Julie J., Colleen B., Greg (friend of the Tolberts), Rick (Colleen B.'s son-in-law), Carlie G., and others named in your heart. Pray for Chelsea Irwin and missionaries around the world. We pray especially for those around the world being persecuted for their faith in the one, true God and the suffering they endure. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, our staff and their families as they do our Lord's work here at Christ Lutheran. We also pray for those who serve in the armed forces, first responders, and for our country and government. Prayers of thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior and the new life we have in Him.



The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is "darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "burnt offerings and grain offerings," nor will He look upon their "peace offerings" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "to the dealers" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God," and "we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Worship Attendance – Sunday, November 5th

 $\begin{array}{l} 8:00 \ AM - 107 \\ 10:30 \ AM - 38 \end{array}$

Stewardship Corner

Budgeted Weekly Needs: Offerings Received – Week of 11/5	\$ \$	8,945 11,715
Budgeted Needs (Jan-Sep 2023)	\$	348,855
Offerings Received (Jan-Sep 2023)	\$	305,810

Matthew 25:4 – **"But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps."** Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom's words and believed what He said. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of stewardship say about what you believe?