

# *Second Sunday in Advent*

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

8:00 AM

“Placed for a Purpose”



Christ Lutheran Church  
3509 SW Burlingame Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66611  
785-266-6263  
[www.christlcms.org](http://www.christlcms.org)  
Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor  
Amanda Adams, DCE



### **As We Gather**

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

### 331 The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spite The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### Divine Service Setting One, page 151

#### ✠ 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

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

*1 John 1:8–9 151*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. Consider: Have you loved God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength? Have you loved your neighbor as yourself?*

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 151

- 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

*Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

- P** Restore us, O God;
- C** **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
- C** **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
- P** You brought a vine out of Egypt;
- C** **it took deep root and filled the land.**
- P** Restore us, O God of hosts;
- C** **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**  
**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** Restore us, O God;
- C** **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

# Kyrie

Mark 10:47 152

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

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.



And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.’

<sup>18</sup>And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Acts 6:1-7

**A** The Epistle is from Acts, chapter 6.

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

<sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

156

*Hebrew word meaning "praise the LORD." Also spelled "Hallelujah".*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:1–15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

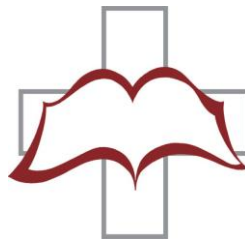
<sup>2</sup>The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. <sup>9</sup>Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. <sup>11</sup>And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.





## **Apostles' Creed**

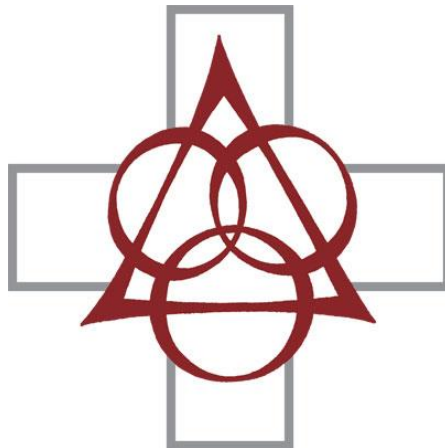
*Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.*

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
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 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 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*



# 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in; And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Placed for a Purpose: Living as God's Child in the Church*

### Memory Verse of the Week:

“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:4 (ESV)



**PLACED FOR A PURPOSE**

Serving Our Neighbors in Church, State, and Home

## 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](https://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](https://christlcms.org/giving)).




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

## Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

*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 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so 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.

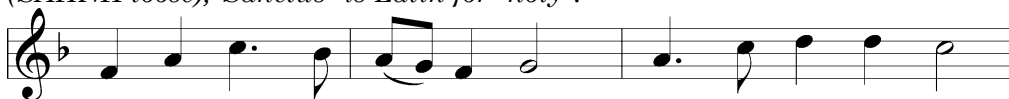
### Proper Preface (Full)

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all  
places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared,  
proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes  
away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might  
escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory.  
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 21:9 161

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



**C** 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. Ho -



san-na. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13 LSB 162

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  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

John 20:19 163

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

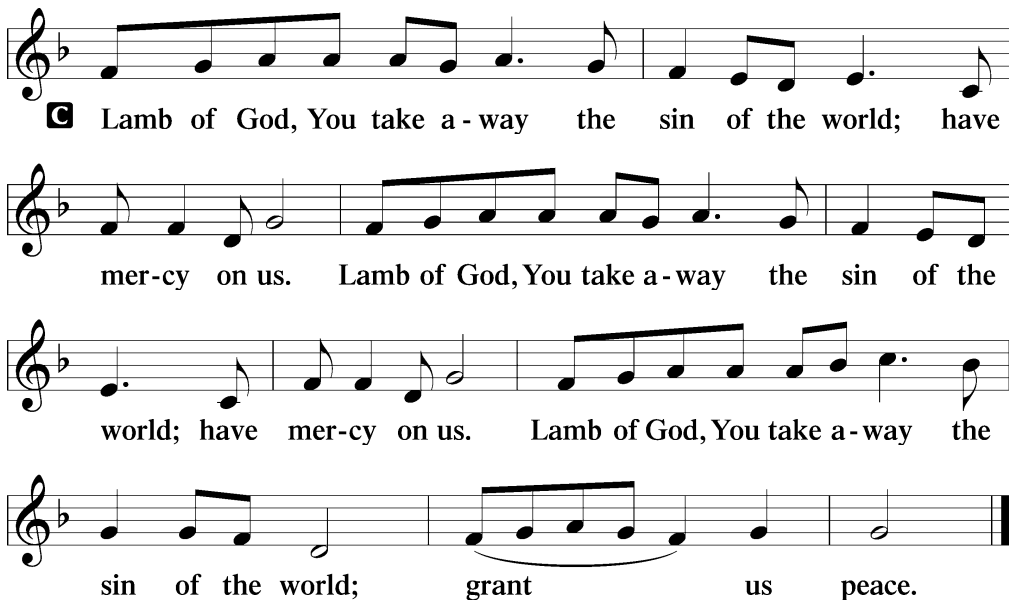
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 163

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



□ Lamb of God, You 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; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*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.*



## 564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

LSB 564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,  
 2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,  
 3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half  
 4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—  
 Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:  
 He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,  
 Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,  
 "A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,  
 To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;  
 His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."  
 "A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."  
 With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.  
 That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,  
 Washed in that precious flood  
 And enter the Most Holy Place  
 By Jesus' blood.  
 From hearts that are sincere,  
 Let tongues our hope profess,  
 And trust anew God's faithful grace  
 That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,  
 Our Lord who intercedes,  
 Our great High Priest enthroned above  
 Who knows our needs;  
 And to the Father sing  
 Our songs of thankful praise,  
 Who with the Spirit reigns in love  
 For endless days.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Hebrew

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Tune: Public domain



# 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
 That, set free from doubt and dread,  
 I may cling to You in faith,  
 Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
 As the glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy will see Your face,  
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
 Text and tune: Public domain



# 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
 Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.  
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199  
 Tune: Public domain



# 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
 Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10] LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## 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** A - men.

## Luther's Morning Prayer

**C** 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.

## Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26 166

*A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.*

- P** 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  $\text{†}$  give you peace.



*Sit*

## 349 Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
Text and tune: Public domain

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## -- Week at a Glance --

Sunday December 10	<b>8:00 am</b> <b>Worship Service w/ Communion</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (children & adults) 10:10 am Pre-Program Piano Recital <b>10:30 am Children's Christmas Program</b> 11:30 am Christmas Potluck
Monday December 11	
Tuesday December 12	5:30 pm LWML/Youth Volunteer at SLI Christmas Party 6:30 pm Elders Meeting
Wednesday December 13	4:00 pm Midweek -- Confirmation 5:15 pm Midweek – Meal (Soups & Sandwiches) 6:00 pm Midweek – Classes 7:00 pm Midweek – Advent Worship 7:30 pm Midweek – Choir
Thursday December 14	2:00 pm Chair Aerobics
Friday December 15	1:30 pm Young at Heart 7:00 pm High School Youth Lock-In
Saturday December 16	9:00 am Breakfast in Bethlehem 10:00 am Men's Zoom Bible Study
Sunday December 17	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 am</b> <b>Worship Service w/ Communion</b> 9:15 am Congregational Voters' Meeting Sunday School (children)

### Celebrating

**Birthdays:** Greg K. (12<sup>th</sup>); Justin K., Gary S. (13<sup>th</sup>); Evelyn L., Lester L. (14<sup>th</sup>); Lynne D., Heather S. (15<sup>th</sup>)

**Baptism Birthdays:** Carolyn C., Sharon L., Terry L., Justin M. (10<sup>th</sup>); Brecken D., Marsha H. (13<sup>th</sup>); Brett H. (14<sup>th</sup>); Ron G. (15<sup>th</sup>); Jan C., Maya M., Hailey P. (17<sup>th</sup>)

**Anniversaries:** (none this week)

# -- Announcements --

## **Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)**

The Real St. Nicholas (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<sup>th</sup> grade) – Upstairs Education Wing  
Youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – Basement Youth Room

## **Midweek at Christ (Wednesday) – Please note slight schedule change for Advent!**

4:00 pm – Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades)

5:15 pm – Meal (Free!)

6:00 pm – Classes (Christian education for all ages)

7:00 pm – Advent Worship Service (a traditional Vespers service for the Advent season)

7:30 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)



*Midweek Meals -- December Menu*



*Dec. 6th (5:15 pm) -- Spaghetti*

*Dec. 13th (5:15 pm) -- Soups & Sandwiches*

*Dec. 20th (5:45 pm) -- Pizza Party & Christmas Cookies*

*Dec. 27th -- No Midweek*

# -- Announcements --

## **Children's Christmas Program – TODAY!**

Our Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Get here a little early – some of our students will be putting on a mini piano recital (beginning around 10:10 AM) and playing music as people arrive for the program! A potluck lunch will follow the program. Bring your appetite and a dish to share!

We will still hold our usual 8:00 AM worship service with communion that morning.

## **Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Worship Services**

On the morning of Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will only hold one worship service – at 9:30 AM (instead of our usual 8 AM and 10:30 AM). That service will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, and we will offer communion as we typically do each week. No Sunday School or Bible study that morning.

The evening of December 24<sup>th</sup>, join us at 4 PM or 6 PM for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services.

Worship with us on Christmas morning (December 25<sup>th</sup>) at 9:30 AM and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

## **Advent Devotions**

Pick up your FREE advent devotions, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, at the back of the sanctuary. Regular print and large print are both available, or download for your e-reader from our website ([christlcms.org](http://christlcms.org)).

## **Voters' Meeting**

We will be holding a congregational voters' meeting on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 9:15 AM education hour. Meeting will start promptly at that time so that we can be sure to finish before the 10:30 AM worship service. This will be our annual budget meeting.

## **Survey – DEADLINE TOMORROW!**

We are conducting a survey to help Pastor Ben and staff determine what areas of ministry we need to focus on as a church, and also show how members of the congregation desire to be involved in outreach and other projects. To take the survey, please visit our website ([christlcms.org](http://christlcms.org)) or pick up a paper copy in the coffee lobby. Survey deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **High School Youth Lock-In**

Youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us here at church this Friday night for a lock-in! Contact DCE Amanda for details.



## -- Announcements --

### Active-Duty Military

If you have a family member who is serving our military on active duty, please send their name and mailing address to the church office. We will be mailing out care packages to them.

### Bible Reading Challenge

Our Bible Reading Challenge is wrapping up! You may now bring your Q4 completion slip to church, certifying that YES! You read the entire Bible in one year! Once you bring your 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<sup>th</sup> – we will hold the grand prize drawing (for a \$50 restaurant gift card plus a \$50 CPH gift card) on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> during our Midweek Christmas Cookie Night.

### Breakfast in Bethlehem

Join us in the gym on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for Breakfast in Bethlehem! Come and go as you please between 9 AM and 11 AM. Enjoy breakfast and interactive stations that tell the story of the very first Christmas. This family event is free of charge!

Volunteers needed – please sign up in the coffee lobby!



**Breakfast in Bethlehem**  
An Interactive Christmas Celebration for Families  
**Saturday, December 16th**  
**9 am - 11 am**

Join us for breakfast, and then travel through our interactive stations for fun activities focused on the story of Christmas.  
Free of charge!

Christ Lutheran Church -- 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. (Topeka)  
[www.christlcms.org](http://www.christlcms.org)

# -- Announcements --

## Household Items & Supplies for Ukrainian Family

Oleg and his family are hoping to cross the border from Ukraine into Poland soon.

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](http://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.

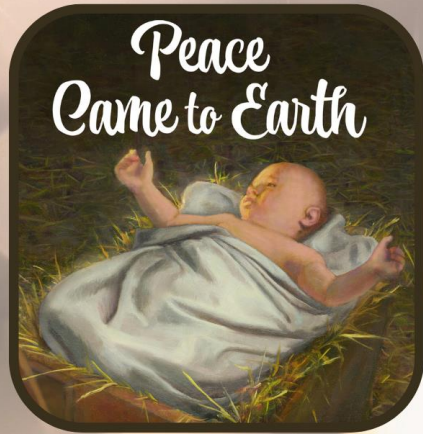
We will also have volunteer opportunities at that time for members willing to welcome the family at the airport, cleaning/furnishing the apartment ahead of their arrival, cooking a few meals, and more. Again, once we have an estimated arrival date, we will be able to give more information on these volunteer 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., 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., Donna B., Lee M., Julie J., Colleen B., Greg (friend of the Tolberts), Rick (Colleen B.'s son-in-law), Carlie G., Averil (great niece of Heather S.), Galen H., Isaac (Ginger C.'s grandson), Bobby, Josie, 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.





*Join us on Wednesdays for  
Advent Midweek at Christ!*

*December 6th & December 13th*

*4:00 pm - Confirmation*

*5:15 pm - Meal*

*6:00 pm - Classes*

*7:00 pm - Advent Worship*

*7:30 pm - Choir*

*December 20th*

*5:45 pm - Meal & Christmas Cookie Night*

*7:00 pm - Advent Worship*

***You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord***

*“The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”* (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes *“proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”* (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, *“the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”* (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd *“will gather the lambs in his arms”* (Is. 40:11). He speaks *“tenderly to Jerusalem,”* and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises *“new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He *“is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

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**Worship Attendance – Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 AM – 65

10:30 AM – 86  
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**Stewardship Corner**

<b><i>Budgeted Weekly Needs:</i></b>	<b>\$ 8,945</b>
<b><i>Offerings Received – Week of 12/3</i></b>	<b>\$ 6,079</b>
<b><i>Budgeted Needs (Jan-Nov 2023)</i></b>	<b>\$ 429,360</b>
<b><i>Offerings Received (Jan-Nov 2023)</i></b>	<b>\$ 399,350</b>

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**2 Peter 3:11 – “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?”** All the things of the earth have an expiration date: “Good until the last day.” On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?