

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

9:30 AM

“Placed for a Purpose”



Christ Lutheran Church
3509 SW Burlingame Rd.
Topeka, KS 66611
785-266-6263
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

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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

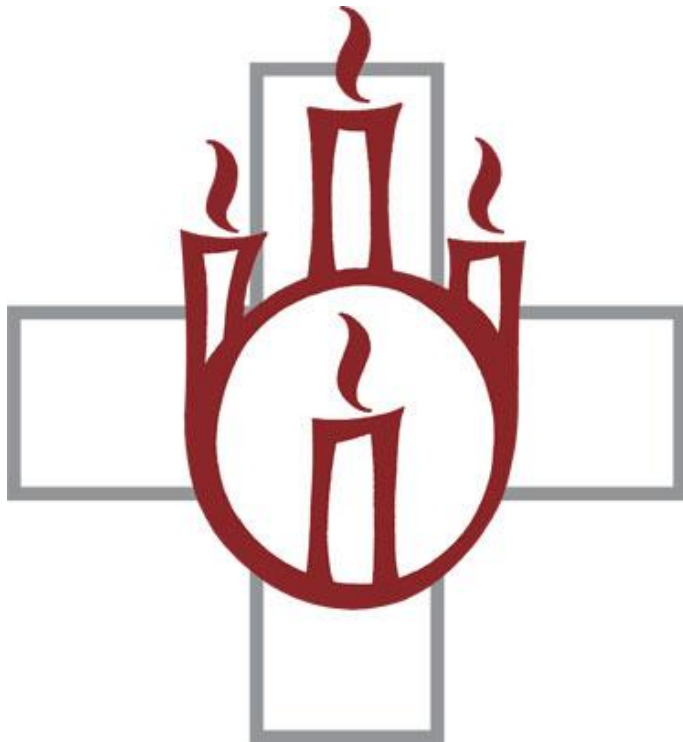
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
C **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**
- P** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
C **In them he has set a tent for the sun,**
P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
C **and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**
P Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
C **and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**
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** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
C **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**



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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

“Salutation” is a word from Latin meaning, “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 al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 2:18–25

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 2.

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:22–33

- A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 5.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the" are written. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. Below it, the lyrics "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of the second staff.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 19:1-6

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

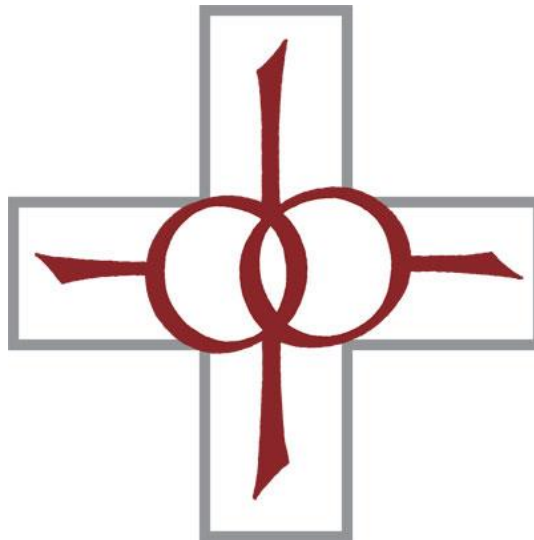
¹Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ²And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh?’ ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



Nicene 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 one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

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.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

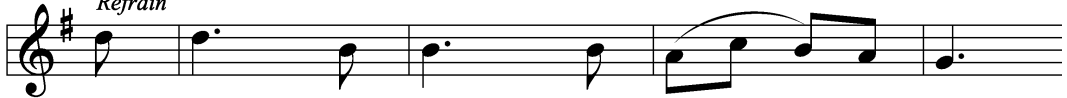


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

(continued on next page)

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum,
1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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

Memory Verse of the Week:

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:23 (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 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).

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

C 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.

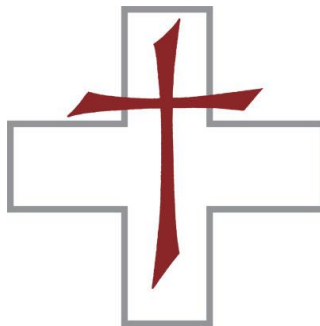
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

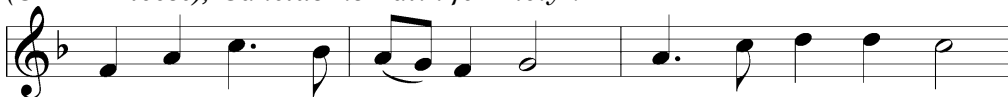
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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 ✝ 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

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.



383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - jice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain





1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
 4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



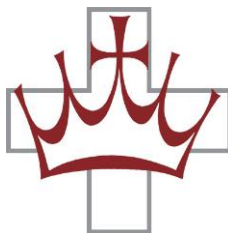
Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
 The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 We at His feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
 On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7):
 A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844
 Text and tune: Public domain





1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
 Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon
 And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,
 His children thus securing
 Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessed hope to those
 Who love the Lord's appearing.
 O glorious Sun, now come,
 Send forth Your beams so cheering,
 And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
 Text and tune: Public domain



341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot
 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
 4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
 is humbly, His kingly crown is holy -
 ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy
 temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's
 Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di -



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



va - tion He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
 all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
 Sov' - reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
 To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
 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 † give you peace.



Sit

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB 922



- 1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008; Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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-- Week at a Glance --

Sunday December 24	9:30 am 4:00 & 6:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service <i>Christmas Eve</i>
Monday December 25	9:30 am	Worship Service w/ Communion <i>Christmas Day</i>
Tuesday December 26		<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>
Wednesday December 27		<i>NO MIDWEEK</i>
Thursday December 28	2:00 pm	Chair Aerobics
Friday December 29		<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>
Saturday December 30	10:00 am	Men's Zoom Bible Study
Sunday December 31	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults)

Celebrating

Birthdays: Jesus C. (25th); Marty C. (26th); Wayne B., Jared H., Shawn H. (27th); Sharon B., Josie H., Kaylyn S. (29th); Carlos B., Maverick O. (30th)

Baptism Birthdays: Jennifer A., Luna C., Jennifer H. (24th), Kash H., Kathryn H., Kody H., Holden T. (25th); Greg K., Erin S. (26th); Marty C. (27th); Robert P. (28th); Jeanette B., Rylan M. (31st)

Anniversaries: Thomas & Sharon H. (27th); Jordan & Bryttney T. (31st)

-- Announcements --

Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am) – RESUMES 12/31

Mark (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) – RESUMES 12/31

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

Midweek at Christ (Wednesday) – RESUMES 1/10

No Midweek this week.

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)

Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Worship Services

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

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Worship Services

4 pm & 6 pm

Christmas Morning

Worship Service

9:30 am



Christ Lutheran Church
www.christclcms.org



-- Announcements --

Bible Reading Challenge Winner

Congratulations to Marsha Appelhans, the winner of our One Year Bible Reading Challenge! Marsha's name was drawn from the eleven members who successfully completed our challenge. Thank you to everyone who participated – we will begin a new (and shorter) challenge at the end of January.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Thursday, January 4th. To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: TopekaCLC). Bring a photo ID, drink plenty of water and eat prior to your appointment.

Update from our Ukrainian Family

Alina and Oleg Jr. hope to be in Topeka before the end of the year. Oleg Sr. has been conscripted to the Ukrainian military in the ongoing war efforts, and cannot leave at this time. Please continue to keep their entire family in your prayers.

If you signed up to donate household items for their family, please contact the church office about dropping off those items – we are hoping to have apartment arrangements confirmed ASAP! Additionally, if you are interested in welcoming Alina and Oleg Jr. at the airport in Kansas City when they arrive, please contact the church office – we will let you know when we have their flight information.

Christ Cookbook

It's not a secret that many of us at Christ enjoy our potlucks, and all the tasty recipes associated with them. Do you have a favorite recipe (or several favorites) that you would be willing to share? One member family has graciously offered to cover the cost of publishing a cookbook, and Andrea Van Genderen has volunteered her time and talents to coordinate the project for our congregation. The cookbook will be available for a suggested donation of \$5 once it has been completed (hopefully sometime this spring). All donations will be used for our continued outreach efforts here at Christ.

To submit recipes, please include the following information:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Contact info (in case clarification is needed)
- 3) A few sentences/short paragraph on the origin of this recipe (optional)
- 4) Recipe (with measurements)

All submissions should be given to Andrea Van Genderen – either give a written/printed copy to her in person here at church, leave it in her church mailbox in the coffee lobby, or send her an e-mail (andrealvg06@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your participation – we're excited to see what you all cook up!

-- Announcements --

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., Averi (great niece of Heather S.), Galen H., Isaac (Ginger C.'s grandson), Bobby, Josie, Emily (great niece of Brenda Z.), Jessica (Jamie H.'s daughter), 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.

Pray WITHOUT
CEASING

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David “*lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,*” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “*Son of the Most High,*” receives “*the throne of his father David*” and begins to reign “*over the house of Jacob forever*” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “*the mystery that was kept secret for long ages*” but is now “*made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God*” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

Worship Attendance – Sunday, December 17th

8:00 AM – 79

10:30 AM – 55

Stewardship Corner

<i>Budgeted Weekly Needs:</i>	\$ 8,945
<i>Offerings Received – Week of 12/17</i>	\$ 12,298
<i>Budgeted Needs (Jan-Nov 2023)</i>	\$ 429,360
<i>Offerings Received (Jan-Nov 2023)</i>	\$ 399,350

Luke 2:12 – “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor. The King was laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

Acknowledgments

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