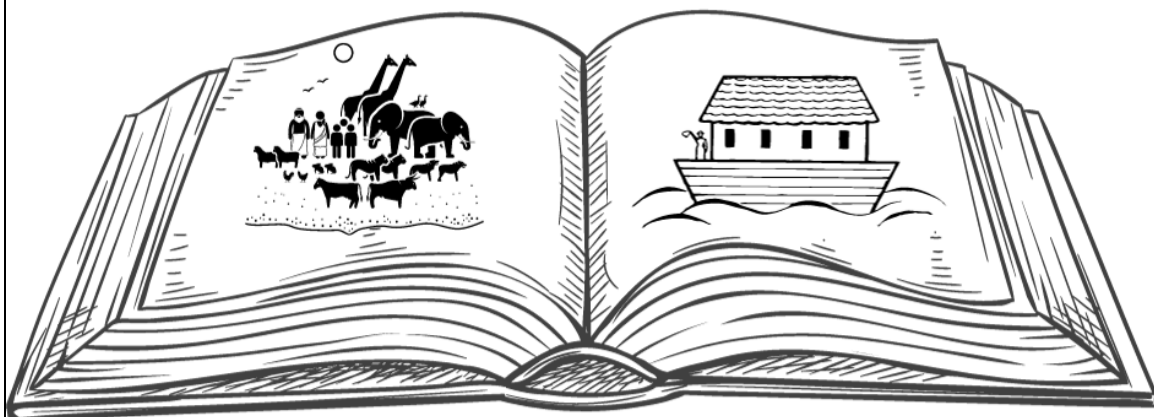


*And Noah did  
all that the Lord had commanded him.*

*-- Genesis 7:5--*



*Old Testament Favorites*

First Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023  
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



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

## 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

LSB 711



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and  
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -  
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.  
bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

*Stand*

## **Invocation**

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

## **Commendation of the Passing Year**

- P** We commend to the gracious love of the Triune God the year now ending. We remember with thanksgiving our times of worship in His house on weekends and festival days; baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries, and funerals. As we remember these things, we also recall the days and seasons of the church year.

The season of Advent, just passed, reminded us of Christ's "comings" and prepared us for this season of Christmas in which we see anew the Father's great love in sending His only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our human flesh for our salvation. The season of Epiphany recalled the visit of the gentile Magi to the infant King Jesus, proclaimed Him the Savior of all people, and concluded with His Transfiguration.

The season of Lent began with the most penitential day of all - Ash Wednesday. These forty days provided many occasions for reflection upon God's Word, repentant living as His baptized children, and preparation for the paschal feast. Holy Week began with Palm Sunday. We sang our "hosannas" as Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday we gathered with His disciples in the upper room and received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. On Good Friday we stood at the foot of His cross witnessing the death of the Son of God in our place.

The next Sunday, Easter Sunday, we were greeted with the angel's proclamation of the Good News of Jesus' victorious resurrection and His conquering of sin, death, and the devil. During the great fifty days of the season of Easter, Christ appeared to His disciples, proclaimed Himself the Good Shepherd of His people, ascended in glory to His heavenly throne, and empowered His Church by sending the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

During the "green" season of Pentecost we continued to be nourished in our faith and life through His Word and the blessed Sacraments.



## 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.*

### 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.**

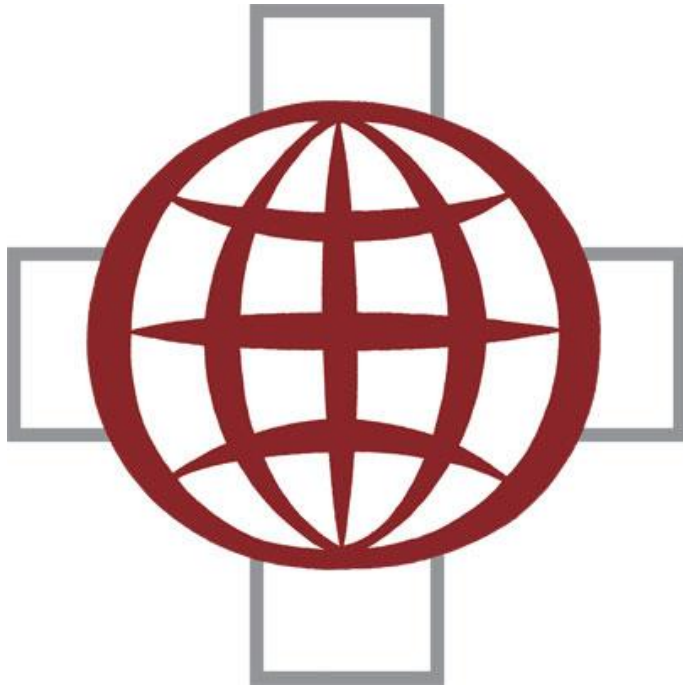


## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10*

- P** The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**C** **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**
- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**C** **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- P** The LORD has made known his salvation;  
**C** **he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
**C** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**C** **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**  
**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** The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**C** **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**



# 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.

# This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9 LSB 155



*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## 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.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 6:11–18; 7:1–5, 11–12, 17–21; 8:1, 13–19*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 6.

<sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup>Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup>For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup>But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, <sup>3</sup>and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” <sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup>And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

<sup>17</sup>The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. <sup>19</sup>And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. <sup>20</sup>The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. <sup>21</sup>And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.

<sup>1</sup>But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

<sup>13</sup>In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup>In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” <sup>18</sup>So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. <sup>19</sup>Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.



**Epistle**

1 Peter 3:18–22

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 3.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

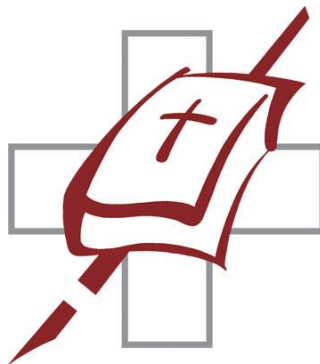
*Stand*

**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 24:36–44

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



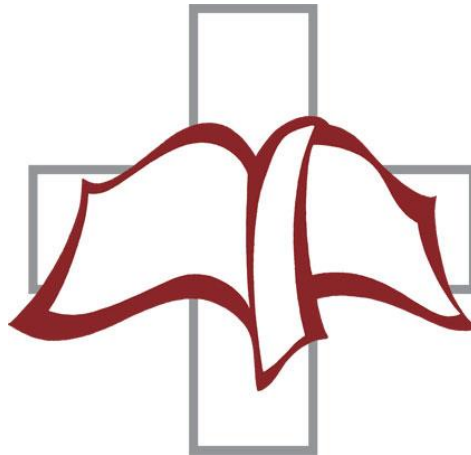
**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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



**G** 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.**

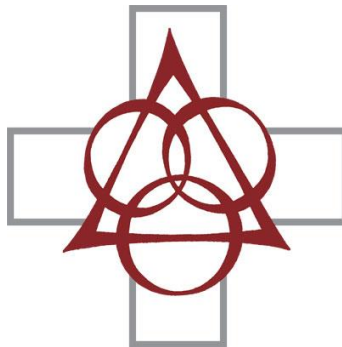
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **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.*



## 729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

LSB 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79; Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77  
Text and tune: Public domain

## 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](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).*



## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Bessie Tolbert, Linda Otte-Stohs

Stand

## 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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.

## 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.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 163

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

A musical score for Agnus Dei in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, consisting of four staves. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**C** 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.

## 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.*

## 716 I Walk in Danger All the Way

LSB 716



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er  
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -  
3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -  
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is  
tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The  
cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He  
friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares  
cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty  
takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I  
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to  
I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my  
In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -  
All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.  
soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.  
ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.  
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

*(continued on next page)*

5 I walk with Jesus all the way,  
 His guidance never fails me;  
 Within His wounds I find a stay  
 When Satan's pow'r assails me;  
 And by His footsteps led,  
 My path I safely tread.  
 No evil leads my soul astray;  
 I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;  
 Await, my soul, the morrow,  
 When God's good healing shall allay  
 All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.  
 Then, worldly pomp, begone!  
 To heav'n I now press on.  
 For all the world I would not stay;  
 My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938, alt.  
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1708, 4th ed., Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## 724 If God Himself Be for Me

LSB 724



1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood  
 3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, My sun, my light, a - lone;  
 4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
 A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.  
 Were He not my de - fend - er Be - fore God's judg - ment throne,  
 He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,  
 With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;  
 I nev - er should find fa - vor And mer - cy in His sight,  
 In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?  
 The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.  
 But be de - stroyed for - ev - er As dark - ness by the light.  
 In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.

*(continued on next page)*

5 For no one can condemn me  
Or set my hope aside;  
Now hell no more can claim me:  
Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me,  
No guilt destroys my peace;  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
And shields me with His grace.

6 Who clings with resolution  
To Him whom Satan hates  
Must look for persecution;  
For him the burden waits  
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses  
Heaped on his blameless head;  
A thousand plagues and crosses  
Will be his daily bread.

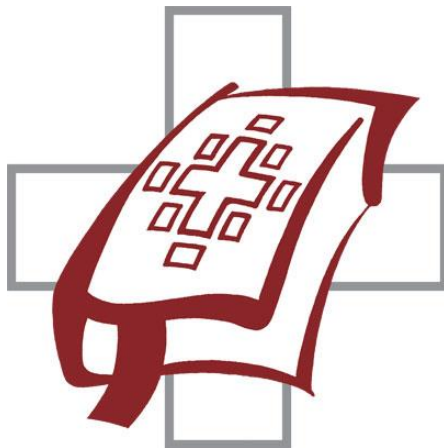
7 From me this is not hidden,  
Yet I am not afraid;  
I leave my cares, as bidden,  
To whom my vows were paid.  
Though life from me be taken  
And ev'rything I own,  
I trust in You unshaken  
And cleave to You alone.

8 No danger, thirst, or hunger,  
No pain or poverty,  
No earthly tyrant's anger  
Shall ever vanquish me.  
Though earth should break asunder,  
My fortress You shall be;  
No fire or sword or thunder  
Shall sever You from me.

9 No angel and no gladness,  
No throne, no pomp, no show,  
No love, no hate, no sadness,  
No pain, no depth of woe,  
No scheming, no contrivance,  
No subtle thing or great  
Shall draw me from Your guidance  
Nor from You separate.

10 My heart with joy is springing;  
I am no longer sad.  
My soul is filled with singing;  
Your sunshine makes me glad.  
The sun that cheers my spirit  
Is Jesus Christ, my King;  
The heav'n I shall inherit  
Makes me rejoice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1, 3–5, 10); tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (sts. 2, 6–9); tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.  
Tune: Vierundzwanzig geistliche Lieder, 1609, Augsburg  
Text and tune: Public domain



## 728 How Firm a Foundation

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,  
 5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.  
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

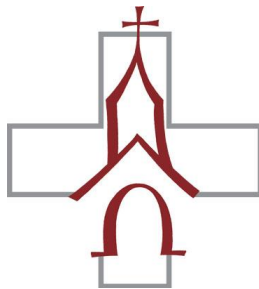


What more can He say than to you He has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.  
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester  
 Text and tune: Public domain



## 730 What Is the World to Me

LSB 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure  
 2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y  
 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers  
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
 Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.  
 Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
 My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,

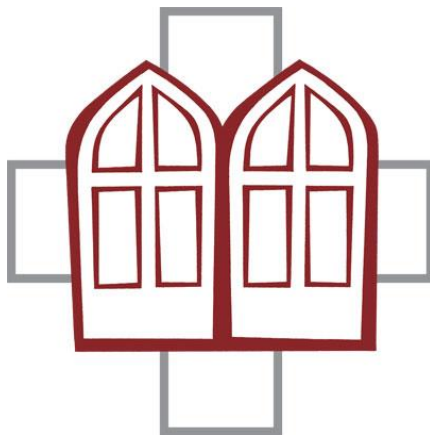


You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;  
 But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,  
 I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:  
 My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
 My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!  
 My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
 Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

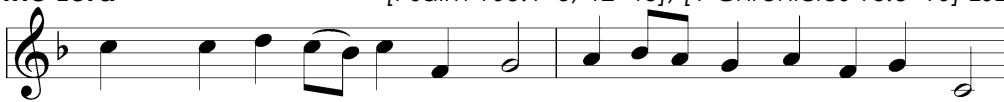
Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701  
 Text and tune: Public domain



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

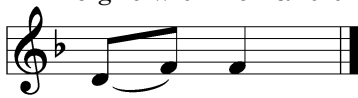


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## 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.

## Invocation for the New Year

**P** With hopeful hearts, Lord, we await the beginning of the New Year. Fill each day and every season with Your presence. May we walk from week to week ever more closely with You. May Your light brighten our every pathway. By Your grace bring us all at last to eternal life in Your glorious presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world.

**C** Amen.

## 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

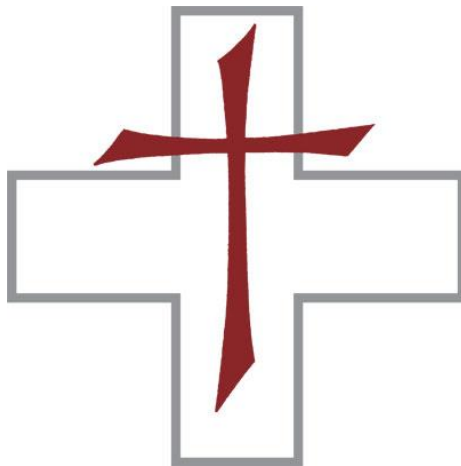
*A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.*

**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.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*



## Acknowledgments

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## 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



*Refrain*  
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

## -- Week at a Glance --

Sunday December 31	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service w/ Communion</b>  <i>New Year's Eve</i>
Monday January 1		<i>New Year's Day</i>
Tuesday January 2		
Wednesday January 3		<i>NO MIDWEEK</i>
Thursday January 4	9:00 am 2:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive Chair Aerobics
Friday January 5		
Saturday January 6	10:00 am	Men's Zoom Bible Study
Sunday January 7	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 am</b> 9:15 am	<b>Worship Service w/ Communion</b> Sunday School (children & adults)

### **Celebrating**

**Birthdays:** Ben O., Trentan W., Sharon W. (1<sup>st</sup>); Thomas H. (2<sup>nd</sup>); Bianca L., Sloan W. (3<sup>rd</sup>); Jeff M. (6<sup>th</sup>)

**Baptism Birthdays:** Jeanette B., Rylan M. (31<sup>st</sup>); Harley B., Colleen B., Virginia C., Carlie G., Chris G., Sondra K., Lee M., Jayel M., Melissa M., Chris N. (1<sup>st</sup>); Walt M. (4<sup>th</sup>); Marsha S., Mary S. (5<sup>th</sup>); Jeff M. (6<sup>th</sup>); Breanna P. (7<sup>th</sup>)

**Anniversaries:** Jordan & Bryttney T. (31<sup>st</sup>); Bob & Carol H. (3<sup>rd</sup>)

# -- Announcements --

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

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)**

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) – 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)

## *Midweek Meals - January Menu*



*January 3rd - No Midweek*

*January 10th - Lasagna*

*January 17th - Ham*

*January 24th - Chicken Wraps*

*January 31st - Enchiladas*



# -- 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 4<sup>th</sup>. To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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. arrived in Topeka this past week. We are hoping to have their apartment leased very soon. Once that happens, those who have signed up to donate items may bring them directly to the apartment or make arrangements for delivery. Please continue to keep their entire family in your prayers.

## **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](mailto:andrealvg06@gmail.com)). Thank you in advance for your participation – we're excited to see what you all cook up!

# -- Announcements --

## Poinsettias

If you ordered a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary, you are welcome to take it home with you after the 10:30 worship service this morning. The Altar Guild thanks you for your generosity!

## Thank You

A huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who shared Christmas greetings, cards, and gifts with our office staff here at Christ. Your love, prayers, and support mean the world to us not only during the busy Christmas season, but also through the whole year. God's blessings, Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, & Mel

## 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 B., Josie H., 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

# Sanctity of Life Sunday – January 21st

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)*

From the time of conception to the time of natural death —  
and every time in between — life is a gift.

LCMS Life Ministry is devoted to upholding the sanctity of human life,  
both in our church body and in the culture at large.

## Diaper Drive for Lifeline January 14th through 21st

As we continue to support Lifeline Women's Resource Center (formerly known as Lifeline Pregnancy Center), we are holding a Diaper Drive! Bring new packages of diapers from January 14th through 21st, and leave them in the crib in the coffee lobby. All donated diapers will be delivered to Lifeline, as they support expecting and new mothers!

Lifeline will happily accept all sizes, but specifically requested sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, and newborn. (They have a lot of sizes 1 and 2.)



lifeline  
women's resource center



**CHRIST LUTHERAN  
TRIVIA NIGHT**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
FOR CHRIST YOUTH!**

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**

***The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification  
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord***

*“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,”* born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, *“according to the Law of Moses,”* Mary and Joseph *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *“At that very hour,”* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *“began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (Is. 61:11). We also *“greatly rejoice in the LORD,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Worship Attendance – Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 AM – 90

4:00 PM – 131

6:00 PM – 64  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Stewardship Corner**

<b><i>Budgeted Weekly Needs:</i></b>	<b>\$ 8,945</b>
<b><i>Offerings Received – Week of 12/24</i></b>	<b>\$ 7,298</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>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Luke 2:21 – “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”** The name of Jesus means “the Lord saves.” There is no better way to end or begin a year than with the sweet comfort of the name of Jesus. He saves us. He loves us. He desires to bless us. That assurance is the basis for all we do in our Christian lives, including our stewardship of His financial blessings.