



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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Season of Advent
November 19, 2023

We Welcome You to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news.

If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

*Our Father, God in Heaven Above
(Vater Unser im Himmelreich)*

Böhm

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We’d love to meet you, or if there’s anything you’d like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today.

It is time to worship!

We listen for God.

It is time to hear!

We receive God’s grace.

It is time to be loved!

We leave in peace.

It is time to serve others!

As we wait for Jesus’ arrival,

Emmanuel, God-with-us,

is already here in this time and place.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People of God, when we think that we have nowhere left to turn,
we can always turn to God.

Whether we feel frozen or are rushing with no time to rest,
whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly
or like our lives will never change,
God is with us.

For God, there is always time for forgiveness.
We trust God, and we confess our sins together.

Time for reflection.

Holy One,

We have not stayed awake.

**We have missed you when you appeared
in our neighbors,**

**in strangers half a world away,
in the suffering planet.**

**We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us
and assumed we were powerless to mend
the breaches in our world.**

**Sometimes, we even gave up
on your mercy, justice, and love.**

God, is it too late for us?

Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts.

Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done. Amen.

People of God,

God's judgment is certain

and God's forgiveness is lightning fast.

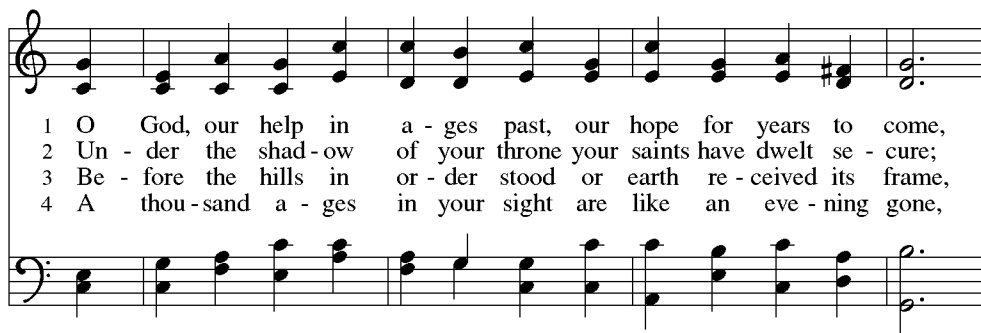
Hear this good news:

in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven.

Forgiveness gives us the courage we need.

Wherever we wait for God's time to come,
we will witness wonders.

Amen.



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 we fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 still be our guard while troubles last
 and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

"The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast." (Zephaniah 1:14)
"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations." (Psalm 90:1)

God who is near:

Our days rush past us, and we can't hold onto what's most dear.

Our days drag on until we long for change.

Yet you are everlasting, as faithful to us now
as to those who lived thousands of years ago.

And you are urgent, bringing sweeping change
within a single moment.

As we light a candle on this wreath,
remind us of your power unfolding
in seconds and in eons.

Amen.

SONG *Out of Time*



1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a



watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search - ing
long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your
hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will



for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?
good - ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?
all pre - pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.

Refrain



You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time,



you tear the heav - ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a - cross the star - lit sky.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesus Loves Me
This Little Light of Mine*

READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

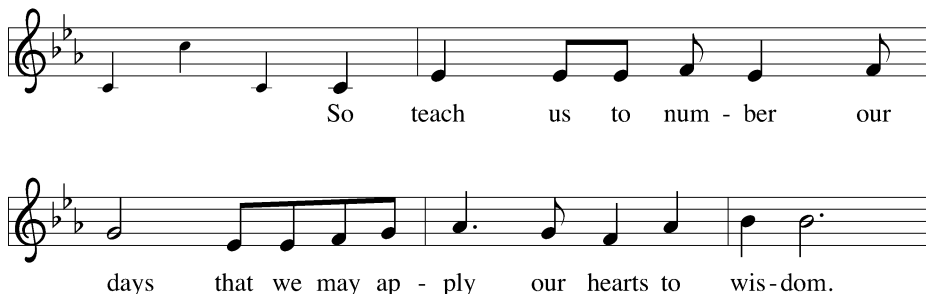
against the fortified cities
 and against the lofty battlements.
¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
 that they shall walk like the blind;
 because they have sinned against the LORD,
 their blood shall be poured out like dust,
 and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
 will be able to save them
 on the day of the LORD's wrath;
 in the fire of his passion
 the whole earth shall be consumed;
 for a full, a terrible end
 he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

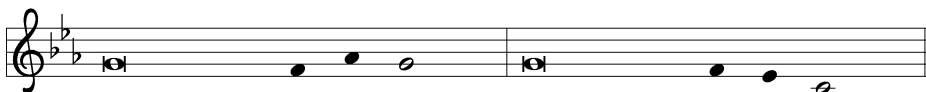
PSALM 90:1–12

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Lord, you have¹ been our refuge
 from one generation¹ to another.
²**Before the mountains were brought forth,**
or the land and the¹ earth were born,
from age to age¹ you are God.
³You turn us back to the¹ dust and say,
 "Turn back, O child-¹ ren of earth."
⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when¹ it is past**
and like a watch¹ in the night; R
⁵you sweep them away¹ like a dream,
 they fade away suddenly¹ like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is¹ green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried¹ up and withered.
⁷For we are consumed¹ by your anger;
 we are afraid because¹ of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have¹ set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light¹ of your countenance. R
⁹When you are angry, all our¹ days are gone;
 we bring our years to an end¹ like a sigh.
¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength¹ even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and¹ we are gone.
¹¹Who regards the power¹ of your wrath?
 Who rightly fears your¹ indignation?
¹²**So teach us to num-¹ ber our days**
that we may apply our¹ hearts to wisdom. R

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake

or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



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



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But

his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #250

Blessed Be the God of Israel

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS

People of God, we are each other's kin, and we are family with all creation. As we wait and yearn for God, we pray together for our community, for the church around the world, and for every need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. In East Timor, Indonesia and Philippines, bless the witness of your churches, grant good government and lift up those working for equitable human rights. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another.

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith especially Clement, Miguel Agustín Pro, Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, William Passavant, and Isaac Watts we praise your goodness.

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

Tear the heavens and come down.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Lutheran Diaconal Association** www.thelda.org.*

If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](#) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).



OFFERTORY (8:00 am): *Pastorale on ‘O God, Our Help in Ages Past’*

Manz

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am): *Go Not Far from Me, O God* Zingarelli

Go not far from me, O God; cast me not away in the time of age. Forsake me not when my strength faileth. O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, that I may sing thy glory and honor all the day long.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Loving God,

For the time we have, we say:

Thank you.

For the gifts we offer, we say:

Thank you.

For the chance to help others, we say:

Thank you.

For the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, we say:

Thank you.

For the ways you are changing the world, we say:

Thank you.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

TABLE PRAYER

God our Creator,
the abundance of your goodness overflowed into creation—
earth, sky, water, plants, animals, and human beings
all came to be and you called us good.

Down through the generations,
your goodness continued to flow:
in friendship with humanity,
in acts of liberation,
in provision for your people.
In all of this, you prepared a way.

And so, with joyful hearts, we join the angels in their song . . .

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the one.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Finally, when the time was right,
you entered our human existence in Jesus,
who was born humbly,
who spent his life with the unlikely and unloved,
who healed and taught and preached the good news of your way.

On the night when he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Whenever we share this bread and cup,
Jesus is here with us, in this moment, in this time and place.
Whenever we share this bread and cup,
God takes us out of time
and joins us with God’s people in every time and place.
Whenever we share this bread and cup,
we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send the Spirit of your presence on us now, O God,
so that we too will overflow with goodness.
Strengthen us by this meal,
so that through us,
your presence will flow out
in friendship,
in acts of liberation,
in provision for others.
In this, we prepare the way for your arrival again,
when you will return to remake all of existence
into your kingdom of perfect mercy, justice, and love.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The image shows the musical notation for the Lord's Prayer. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with slurs indicating phrasing. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line. The sixth staff ends with a double bar line.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The time is now! Taste and see God's goodness!

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored, and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The COMMON CUP is available for anyone who wishes. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

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, grant us peace.



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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ELW #259 *Fling Wide the Door*



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

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After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

SENDING CHARGE

As you leave this place, remember:
whether you feel lost in time that races like a waterfall
or trapped in time that drips away slowly,
God is beside you.
Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.

BLESSING

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.
Jesus ✠ our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.
The Holy Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope for the hopeless, blesses you.
You are blessed in the name of God the Three in One.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #707

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Children join the pastors to send us in mission

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

I'll Praise My Maker

Page

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.

Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Lena Gibson	Lynx Vittitoe
Lector	Gail Lutz	Sue McPherson
Prayer Assistant	Kathy Sutherland	Heather Budnik
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Jacquie Chevalier Holly Knauff
Ushers	Venstrom Family Irene Adams	Jonathan Bull Maya & Jay Bull
Sound/Light	Tony Reinhold	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	John Buggeln
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Preaching	Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants:	Luke Venstrom, cantor Sam Venstrom, handbell duet Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of November 19

November 23

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

November 23

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

November 24

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

November 25

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia and Philippines.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the vital witness of churches in this region
- the diversity of ethnicities, cultures and religious beliefs, and especially those in Indonesia who have built bridges between them
- those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- those who protest exploitative mining, deforestation and other environmental damage.

We **pray** for:

- governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste, that they will eradicate corruption, establish justice and peace, and work effectively for the wellbeing of all their people
- victims of violence, torture, drug and human trafficking, and human rights violations, that those responsible might be held accountable
- all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards
- ecumenical and interfaith cooperation to bring justice, peace and sustainability to these lands.

Advent Message

Out of Time

Have you ever had a calendar “push notification” pop up on your phone? When Advent arrives, it’s as though one of those push notifications appears in our collective Christian consciousness: *Jesus is on the way! Would you like to plan something?*

This urgency is not entirely due to our human rhythms of remembering and forgetting. As the church year barrels to its close and then careens into a new beginning, our scripture readings are preoccupied with time—*the day of the Lord, God’s time* versus *our time*, the mysterious scheduling of *the day and the hour*.

This urgency is intensified by the unpredictable way in which the lectionary interacts with time. The gospel lessons skip backward and forward over Jesus’ life like someone trying to find the right track on a vinyl recording: one week, Jesus speaks of a day to come, the next week, John the Baptist speaks of Jesus’ coming.

In Advent, past and future collapse into God’s present, and the lines blur between Jesus’ first and second arrivals.

This is chronologically disorienting in a way that seems intentional. God, who created time and exists beyond it, is busy within, around, and beyond our human experience of time.

Just what is God doing when it comes to time and to us? This Advent, we reflect on how God uses our experience of time to meet us, challenge us, bless us, shape us, and call us into holy endings and new beginnings.

We’ll explore two senses of being *out of time*. Advent thrusts upon us the reality that time is limited. We run out of time to reconcile, to prepare, to make a change. Yet even as *we* are running out of time, *God* is outside of time entirely.

God’s infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fear as God enters human time to dwell with us: *Emmanuel*, God-with-us.

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