



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

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Season of Advent  
November 26, 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 on 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.**

*On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

J.S. Bach

### **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.**

# GATHERING HYMN ELW #239 *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

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

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song,  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## **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**

*“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” (Matthew 25:37-39)*

Let us pray.

Giver of all good things:

You give us our days on this earth,  
but we determine how to use them.

When we don't know what's right,  
when we fail to care for others,  
when we don't recognize you,  
reveal yourself to us.

As we light another candle on this wreath,  
remind us that you are the one who gives,  
even purpose for our days,  
and direction for our deeds.

**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.*

## READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

<sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 95:1–7a

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

### Refrain



We are the peo-ple of God's pas-ture and the sheep of God's hand.



## Psalm Tone



Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD | is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. R

<sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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.

*Repeat alleluia*



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

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

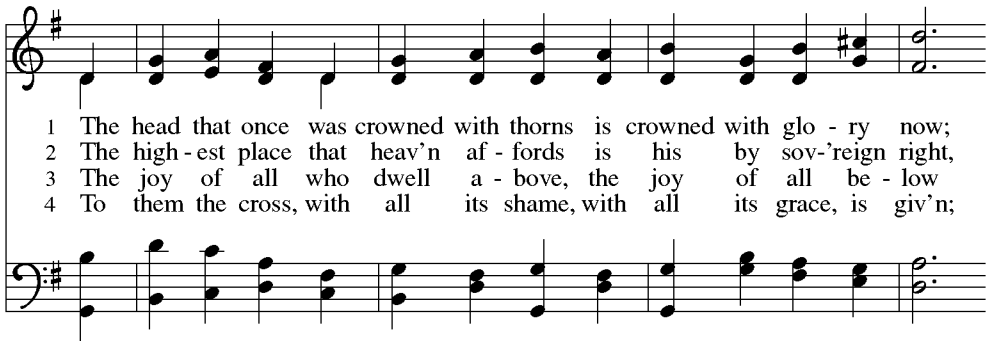
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

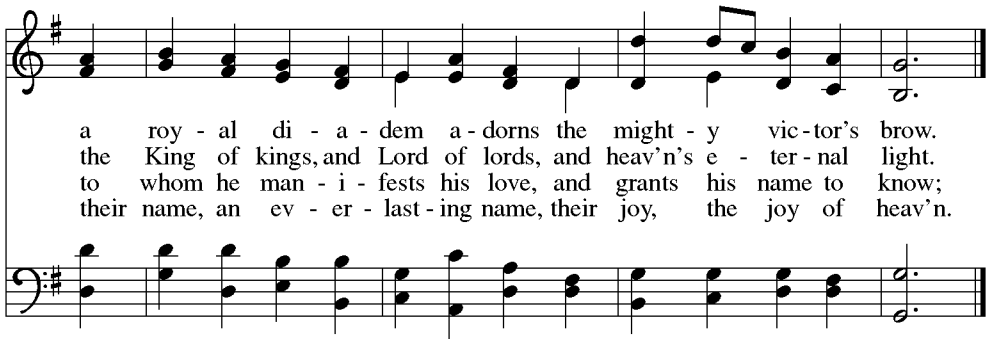
*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #432**     *The Head That Once Was Crowned*

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



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;  
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov'-reign right,  
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low  
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;



a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.  
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.  
to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;  
their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

## 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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries.

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

**Tear the heavens and come down.**

In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

**Tear the heavens and come down.**

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Accompany the churches of Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore as signs of your good news; empower their citizens as they seek to justice, democracy, and inclusion.

Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

**Tear the heavens and come down.**

In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

**Tear the heavens and come down.**

In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire our congregation's Hospitality and Outreach Ministry and Social Ministries teams – bless their work and make us partners in your justice and mercy. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hurry, God. Hear our prayers.

**Tear the heavens and come down.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us, especially Andrew, who we commemorate today. Unite us with them as one body of Christ.

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](http://www.thelda.org).*

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



## OFFERTORY

Noel Étranger

D'Aquin

## **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**

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.

...we proclaim the mystery of faith.

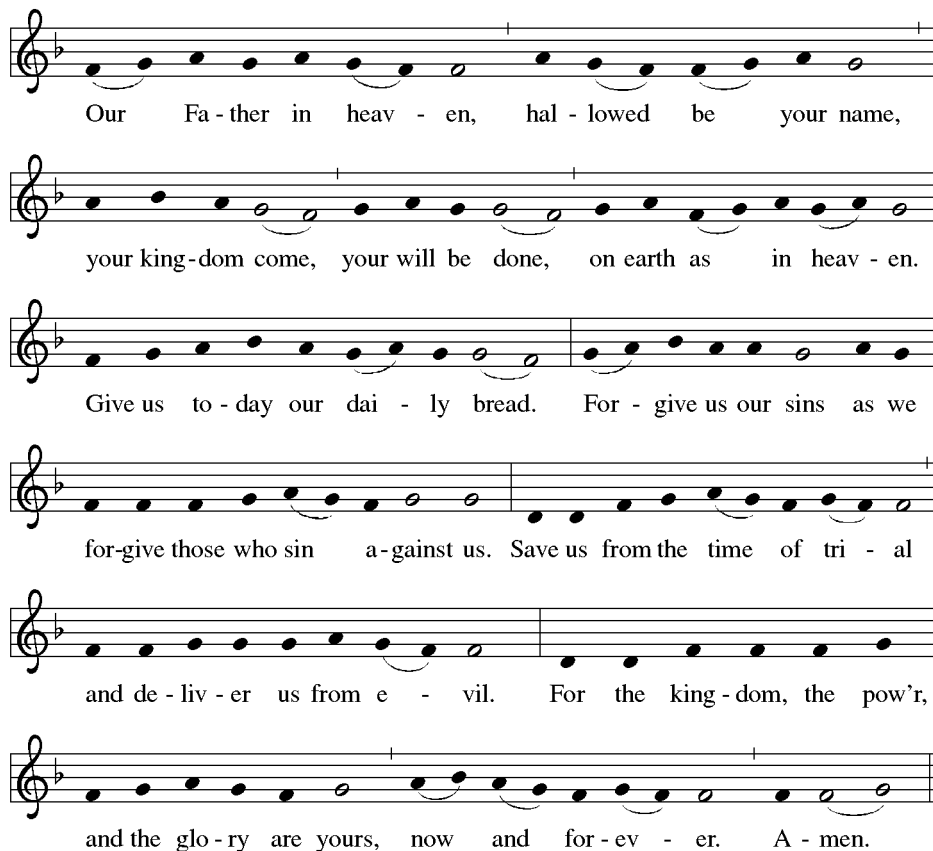
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...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 - gainst 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.

## 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 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



ELW #502    *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

*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 God is calling you to the challenge of a lifetime or of a day,  
God is empowering 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 #430

*Rejoice, for Christ is King!*

1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
 4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit

re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
 and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -

joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

J.S Bach

*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                      | Sam Venstrom                                       | Libby Novak                      |
| Lector                       | Don MacMillan                                      | Becky Fry                        |
| Prayer Assistant             | Linda Mapes                                        | Becky Fry                        |
| Communion Assistants         | Phyllis Schroeder<br>Kathy Sutherland              | Amy Knauff<br>Holly Knauff       |
| Ushers                       | Don MacMillan<br>Tim Sutherland                    | Jacquie Chevalier<br>Libby Clark |
| Sound/Light                  | Zach Wehner                                        | Tony Reinhold                    |
| Video/Livestream             | -----                                              |                                  |
| Pastors                      | Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.<br>Rev. Erica Gibson-Even |                                  |
| Director of Music Ministries | Brian Bartusch                                     |                                  |
| Worship Participants:        | Melissa Summerville, cantor                        |                                  |
| Communion Baker              | Chrystal Hernes                                    |                                  |

## COMMEMORATIONS

*Week of November 26*

**November 30**

**Andrew, Apostle**

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.





## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore.**

We **give thanks** for:

- Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and evangelical churches and councils of churches in Malaysia and Singapore which have witnessed to the gospel and ministered to groups who are discriminated against and marginalized
- economic developments that have enhanced the standard of living for many
- policies and practices that seek to sustain the environment and its resources
- those who have sought to further ethnic and religious harmony

We **pray** for:

- more just, participatory and democratic rule
- locally-determined economic development that lessens inequalities and protects natural resources
- greater ethnic and religious understanding and cooperation
- the forging of national identities and visions that genuinely include all the diverse people in these countries

### ***Stewardship Snippet***

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* –**Matthew 25:40**

How do we live as good stewards of our time, our talents and our treasure? In this parable Jesus makes it plain: In compassionate, giving relationship with our neighbors, especially our neighbors who are hungry, naked, sick, in prison or a stranger. How are you loving your needy neighbors?

# 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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