



# Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,  
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660  
[clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org) • [office@clcvalpo.org](mailto:office@clcvalpo.org)



November 27, 2022

## **WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

### **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. 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**.

### **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.

**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. **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.

### **COVID Procedure Update**

**Masks are encouraged but optional during worship.** Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

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.**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

## **GATHERING**

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

### **PRELUDE**

*Fantasia on 'What Child is This?'*

Purvis

### **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 (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).*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

God ✝ is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world.  
Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do  
but to be honest with each other and humble before God.  
So, in humility, we confess our sins.

*A brief silence for reflection.*

God, we have acted helpless,  
**even when you called us to action.**  
**We have resisted your truth,**  
**even when our lies were exhausting.**  
**We have behaved as though we were alone,**  
**even when you were beside us.**  
**God, we have believed we were dying,**  
**even when you helped us grow.**

God knows we can never undo our sins.  
 We cannot ignore painful history  
 as though it does not affect us today.  
 Yet from the very beginning,  
 God's will has been the salvation of all creation.  
 That salvation comes to each of us today:

Receive † God's forgiveness.  
 This forgiveness is total.  
 No sign of your old life remains,  
 And if God has moved beyond your sin,  
 you have no reason to return to it again.

**We are healed, by the one who makes all things new.  
 Thanks be to God!**

**GATHERING HYMN ELW #435 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending***

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:  
thrill to the trum - pet sound to hear:  
claim the king - dom as thine own.

[illegible]

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a lone!

For God, change can be small, evolutionary, atomic.  
A crumbled resistance, a slightly different direction,  
a fresh idea in the middle of the night.

**God is urgently waiting to finally arrive.**

God, we have been waiting for you, too.  
**Yet you often arrive before we notice:**  
**in the place we did not expect,**  
**in the word we did not hear.**

Do not be afraid, your angels always say,  
right before you change a life.  
**You are here to change this place. We are not afraid.**

## GREETING

Peace to you and welcome,  
from the God whose days are without number,  
the Savior who savored every hour with friends,  
the Spirit who sanctifies every second.

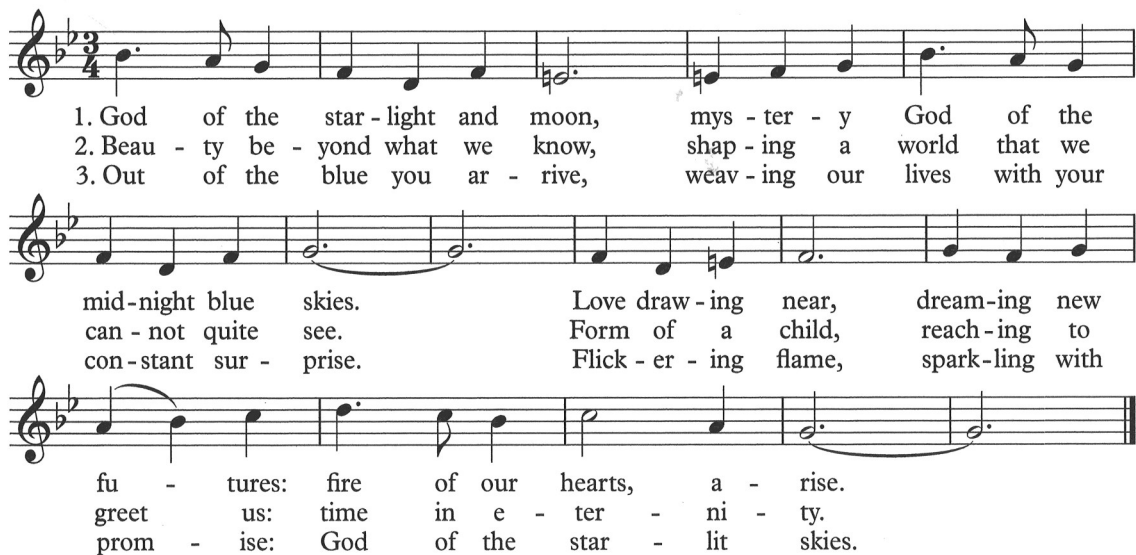
**Amen.**

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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*We sing verses one and two of "God of the Starlight and Moon",  
then the last verse after the Prayer of the Day*

### God of the Starlight and Moon: Lighting the Advent Candles



1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the  
2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we  
3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near, dream - ing new  
can - not quite see. Form of a child, reach - ing to  
con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame, spark - ling with

fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.  
greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.  
prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

In slowly receding shadow,  
what once seemed frightening  
now appears recognizable, even familiar.

This candle on our Advent wreath  
Reminds us how our confidence grows  
as God's promises  
take shape around us,  
transforming the terrifying  
into the comforting.

In time we will  
understand every shadowy angle  
of God's ancient promises.  
But not yet,  
not fully.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy Thief,  
stealing away  
our false securities  
and idle vanity:  
awaken us  
from the dull sleep  
that clings to empty fear  
and vacant routine;  
unfold on us the time of crisis  
when love of truth  
floods a thirsty world;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.  
**Amen.**

*We sing verse 3 of God of the Starlight and Moon.*

### **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: Isaiah 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 122

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**



<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**

**“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

## **READING: Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, 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 Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner 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 unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.


**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

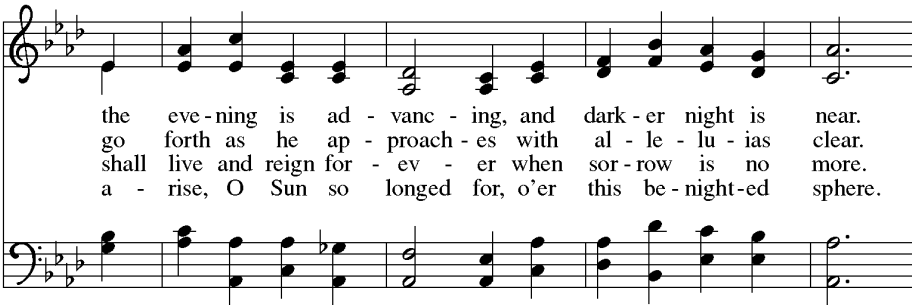
*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

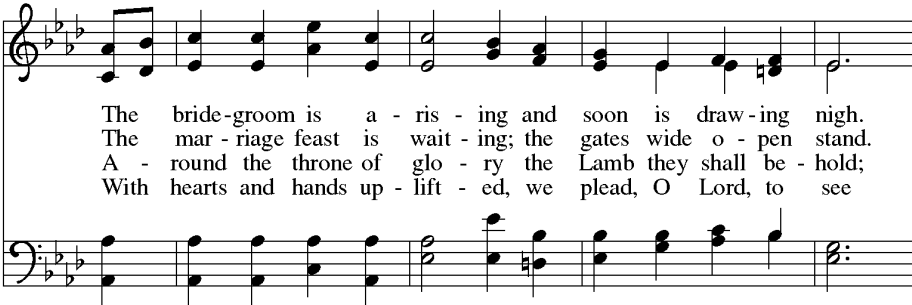
*The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.*



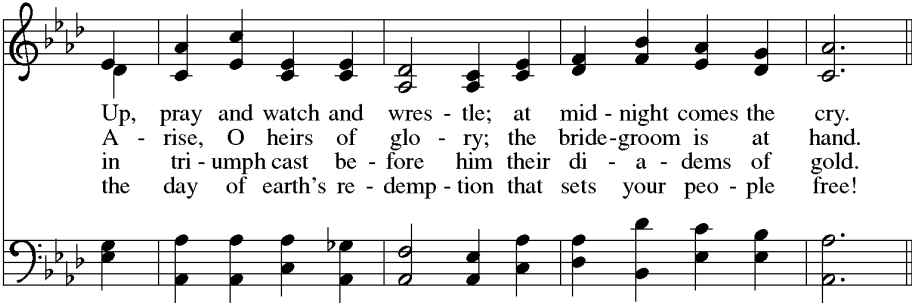
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. Equip churches in Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore to be signs of your mercy and agents of peace and reconciliation.

God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, and in Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen, and Ukraine. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger.

Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you, including Andrew and Francis Xavier. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping 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**

*Throughout this pandemic our congregation has never stopped serving our neighbors, our community, our world -- all because of your participation and support. This month we are sharing a portion of our offerings for the support of the **Lutheran Diaconal Association (LDA)** [www.thelda.org](http://www.thelda.org).*

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

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 am)** *Our Hope is in Emmanuel*

Johnson

*The time has come, as the prophets foretold, to prepare for the soon coming King. He will bring us new love, and will fill our hearts with light, and will vanquish the darkness from night. Our hope is in Emmanuel, the promised One, God's holy Son, our hope is in Emmanuel, the One who has come to save. We have patiently waited for the King to appear, and bring us hope, joy, and peace. Now we wipe away our tears and no longer stand in fear, for we know that salvation draws near.*

**OFFERTORY (10:30 am):**

*A le Venue de Noel*

Balbastre

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

We pray:

**God, we have labored and toiled  
for our money, and our time,  
and our families, and our freedom.**

**We have cherished what we thought was ours.**

Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing  
was a treasure we had received from your open hand.

**We give you these gifts as a sign of your love and faithfulness.  
Use them to grow more hope in this world. 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.**

*The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:*

## SANCTUS

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## TABLE PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.  
**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. 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.

## LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

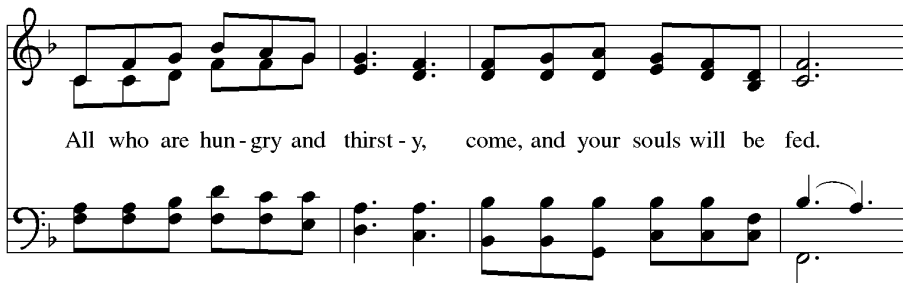


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.



First system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



Second system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff continues the melody from the first system. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Third system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff continues the melody from the second system. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

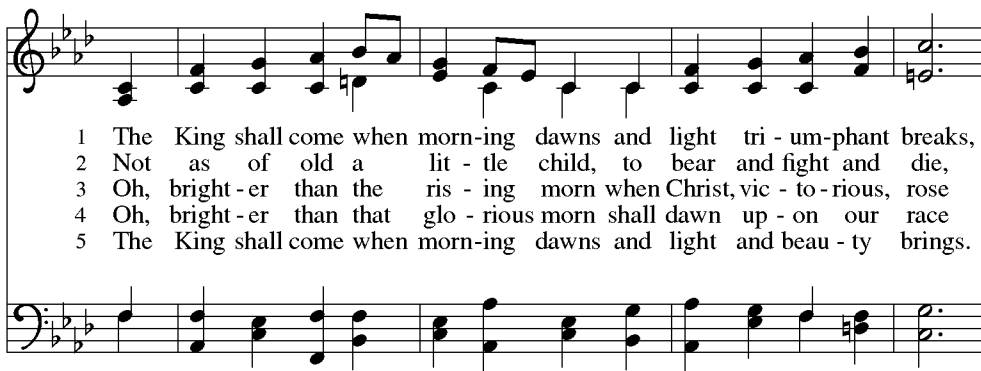
Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Fourth system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff continues the melody from the third system. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## ELW #260    *The King Shall Come*



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

*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**

The meal has ended. Now let the remembering begin.  
Remember you have met God in this place.  
Remember that no person who meets God  
can ever be the same.

We pray:

**You have called us. We have listened.**  
**You invited us. We took our place at the table.**  
**You have sat with us so we might follow you.**  
**Now there is nowhere else we can go,**  
**because you alone have the words of life. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

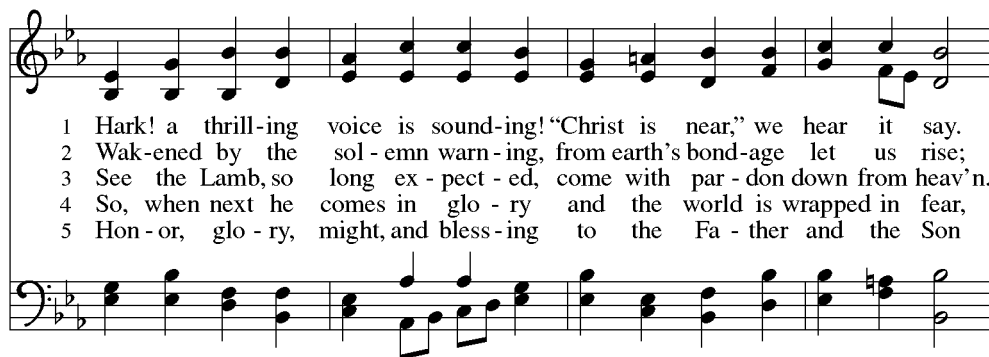
*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

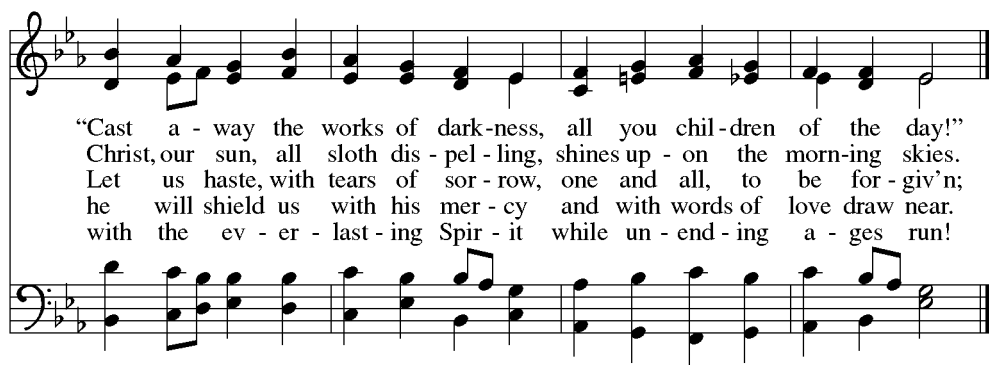
*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

God the eternal,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
 2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

arr. Langlois

*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	Luke Ridley	Abby Vittitoe
Lector	Phyllis Schroeder	Diana Iltzsche
Prayer Assistant	Linda Mapes	Grace Safrin
Communion	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Amy Knauff Holly Knauff
Ushers	Irene Adams Ramona Krueger	Jeff Peiffer Sherry Balakir
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	Ben Crill
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries:	Brian Bartusch	

Worship Participants: Sanctuary Choir

## **November Altar Gifts**

Communion Baker	Andrew Teeple
Communion Wine	Sara & Jeremy Long ~ In Memory of Floyd and Pearl Long Barb & Bill Lieske ~ In Memory of Stella and Clarence Moss
Altar Candles	Mike & Lois Felten ~ In Memory of Paul Bretscher Grace & Jeff Safrin ~ In Celebration of daughter Kelly's birthday
Eternal Lamp Candles	Irene Adams ~ Given to the Glory of God

## COMMEMORATIONS

### *Week of November 27, 2022*

#### **November 30**

##### **Andrew, Apostle**

Andrew was the first of the Twelve. He is known as a fisherman who left his net to follow Jesus. As a part of his calling, he brought other people, including Simon Peter, to meet Jesus. The Byzantine church honors Andrew as its patron and points out that because he was the first of Jesus' followers, he was, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." Together with Philip, Andrew leads a number of Greeks to speak with Jesus, and it is Andrew who shows Jesus a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew is said to have died on a cross saltire, an X-shaped cross.

#### **December 3**

##### **Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552**

Francis Xavier (SAYV-yehr) was born in the Basque region of northern Spain. Francis's native Basque language is unrelated to any other, and Francis admitted that learning languages was difficult for him. Despite this obstacle he became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. At each point he learned the local language and, like Martin Luther, wrote catechisms for the instruction of new converts. Another obstacle Francis overcame to accomplish his mission work was a propensity to seasickness. All his travels to the Far East were by boat. Together with Ignatius Loyola and five others, Francis formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spoke out against the Spanish and Portuguese colonists when he discovered their oppression of the indigenous people to whom he was sent as a missionary.

## **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.

## Advent Message

Imagine that you're driving down the highway. You miss your exit. With a little tug in the pit of your stomach, you realize that you're now heading somewhere new.

Imagine that you're at a concert. A piece of music keeps surprising you with fresh chords and new sounds. The composer leads you somewhere you didn't expect, and you can't help but follow, curious to discover what comes next.

Imagine that you've gathered with a group of people for ballroom dancing. The music shifts; it's time to change partners. You're ready to sit this one out, but someone meets your eyes and holds out their hand. The moment is electric. You accept the wordless invitation and spin into motion.

Change is at hand. Something unexpected is happening, and we're in the midst of it. Out of the blue, something new is arriving like lightning: transformation, wonder, justice, joy. From generation to generation, God has been dreaming of this moment. Inevitably, it catches us by surprise, just like it surprised our ancestors in faith: Sarah, Abraham, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Mary, Joseph. God's time is now. It's here to reorient our expectations and to sweep us into a future of hope and promise, even if we didn't expect it, even if it wasn't part of our plans.

We are invited to join the flow of an Advent season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll trace God's plans for justice and peace with the genealogy of Jesus and the witness of the saints who followed him. We'll be surprised by a thicket of new shoots from the stump of Jesse. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar outlines of our lives, God will meet us there too.

The highway has always extended past the familiar exit. The music is already written. The dance is underway. But the moment of change seems to come out of the blue, altering our expectations and creating a future we never thought possible. It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?

## Stewardship Snippet

**Romans 13:12b-13** – “Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.”

*How are you stewarding your life? Paul reminds us that we are not created for darkness -- living to satisfying our desires and fighting with other. Rather, we are created to walk boldly in God's light of truth and love. Doing so, our lives become filled with God's joy and satisfaction and love.*

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