

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ryder Giovanetti	Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Vincent Mroz; The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above.
Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 23, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Wer nur den lieben Gott"

Ben Logan

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 837

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

**Come Christians follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain:***

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain:***

**All new born soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain:***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain:***

**Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain:***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be.
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain:***

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CONGREGATION GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to set forth Your praise, to hear Your Holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ, and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CHOIR “On This Day of Celebration”

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Now think we all our God with heart and hands and voices!
On this day of celebration, loudest songs of joy we raise,
we give thanks and adoration, singing, hymns of grateful praise,
singing, loudest, hymns of grateful praise.

On this day of celebration, building for a future, strong,
with a vision still united, Lord, to You We lift our song,
Lord, to You We lift our joyful song.

Oh God, our home, our strength and shield in present days and past,
our help and guide in times of strife, our hope while life shall last,
our Hope while life shall last.

With thankful, hearts, and joyful voices,
for Your blessings, we do pray,

Sing we now with jubilation on this glad and festive day!

On this day of celebration, loudest songs of joy we raise,
we give thanks and adoration, singing, hymns of grateful praise,
singing, loudest, hymns of grateful praise.

Now I think we all our God with heart and hands and voices
now thank we, now think we all our God!

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of
God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 152

This Is the Feast

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all Creation:

**Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. Refrain**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross.
Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your
bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:13–18

L: The first reading for the Last Sunday of the Church Year is from
chapter three of Malachi.

*The Lord makes His claim on His treasured possession, declaring “they shall be
Mine.”*

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

PSALM 46

L: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.

C: **The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: God is our Refuge and Strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The Holy Habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: The Nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters His voice, the earth melts.
Come, behold the works of the Lord,
How He has brought desolation on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.
Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

**A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:13–20

L: The second reading is from chapter thirteen of Colossians.

*By His blood, the Christ who holds all things together also holds us in His
kingdom.*

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:27–43

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter twenty-three.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Upon the cross, Jesus is enthroned as King and speaks of forgiveness and
paradise.*

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third
day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at
the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night for Night Is Flying

Hymnal p. 516

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”

The watchmen on the heights are crying;

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices

And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare

To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

**Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.**

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,

Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall

To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee

With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,

Where, joining with the choir immortal,

We gather round Thy radiant throne.

No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally

Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

HANDBELLS

"We Gather Together"

Sondra K. Tucker

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Nun danket all und bringet ehr"

Robert Lau

OFFERING SONG (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 159

What shall I render to the Lord

for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation

and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now

in the presence of all His people,

**in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymnal p. 525

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,

Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
 Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 The root whence mercy ever flows, The Babe of Bethlehem.
 Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
 No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
 And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
 His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
 Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
 Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "Bryn Calfaria"

John Innes

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

⁴If you are not a communing member of Christ Lutheran, you must speak with the pastor before receiving communion. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.