

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Missionaries: The Rev. Vincent Mroz, The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl  
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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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## The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

### ORDER OF SERVICE

**Prayer on entering church:** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

### PRELUDE

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night

Lynn Arthur Koch

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN** (*please rise and sing*)

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

Hymnal p. 398

**Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression And rule in equity.**

**He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.**

**He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before Him And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing.  
To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.**

**O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever—That name to us is Love.**

**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.

## CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*(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.)*

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**

## KYRIE

Hymnal p. 204

P: Heavenly Father, as we prepare for the arrival of Your Son, enlighten and empower us by Your Word and Spirit that we would remain steadfast in the hope of everlasting life, be strengthened in the peace we have with You through Christ Jesus, overflow with joy because of the abundance of Your mercies, and live in the way of love towards all people.

C: *(sung)* **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high —  
For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

**CHOIR**

My Heart, Your Bethlehem

Ruth Elaine Schram/David Gaines

**COLLECT**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 35:1–10

L: The first reading for the Third Sunday in Advent is from chapter thirty five of Isaiah.

*Isaiah proclaims the glory of God.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

# PSALMODY

## Psalm 146

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

L: Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

L: Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

**L: The Lord watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!**

**C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

**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**

James 5:7-11

**L: The second reading is from Book of James, chapter five.**

*James teaches the importance of patience.*

*Following the reading...*

**L: This is the Word of our Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 205

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:2-15

**P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter eleven.**

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist asks if Jesus is the Messiah.*

*Following the reading...*

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

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED<sup>2</sup>

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

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Hymnal p. 350

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.

Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.

Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;

Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,

And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,

That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

## SERMON<sup>3</sup>

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

## VOLUNTARY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

John Eggert

## OFFERING SONG

What Child Is This

Hymnal p. 370 v. 1, 3

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;

Come, peasant king, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

## 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.

## 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 His favor and (†) give you His peace.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Hymnal p. 338

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver; born a child a yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

**Prayer after worship:** Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

Prelude on "Merton"

David Lasky

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>Martin 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

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