

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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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The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Roberta Rowland-Raybold

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymnal p. 379

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy, Light of Light Eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes

Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest;

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

TEXT: John F. Wade; Public Domain

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

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.

CONFESSIO^N¹

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 welcome 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.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-14

L: The first reading for the First Sunday after Christmas is from chapter sixty three of Isaiah.

Isaiah will recount the steadfast love of the Lord.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 111

L: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

C: **He sent redemption to his people;**
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

L: Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

C: **He sent redemption to his people;**
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

L: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

C: **He sent redemption to his people;**
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

L: The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**C: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!**

**L: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

**C: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!**

**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

Galatians 4:4-7

L: The second reading is from chapter four of Galatians.

When the fullness of time came, God sent His Son.

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 2:13-23

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

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

Herod murders the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem and they become the first martyrs for the sake of the Lord.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **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

Let All Together Praise Our God

Hymnal p. 389

Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

Within an earthborn form
He hides His all creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door
To bless'ed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Joy to the World

Nigel Williams

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

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Hymnal p. 390

**Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**

**To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.**

**Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen. Jesus, hear us.**

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

Fantasy on "Adeste fidelis"

Paulette Fry

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

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