Third Sunday in Advent December 11, 2022

As We Gather - Advent is a most joyful time and a time for great praise of our God. Today is the "joyful Sunday" in Advent. With Mary's beautiful song, the Magnificat, we exult that God has "done great things" and that "His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation" (*LSB*, pp. 248–49). With Mary, we rejoice that God "has shown strength with His arm" especially to those who are lowly and humbled. In his paraphrase of the Magnificat, hymnwriter Stephen Starke invites us to "Sing the greatness of the Lord" and "With praise and blessing Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy" (*LSB* 933:1). There is so much joy in Advent—it simply must be shared!

Offering: Offerings will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church either upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

The Wearing of Masks: To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 are highly encouraged to wear a mask or stay home. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

Prelude and Meditation: Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

Prelude:

Choir Anthem:

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confession and Absolution



- ▶ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we 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.

Introit

Service of the Word

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be 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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all C things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers** LSB 515 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; pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'rings bore. 3 The saints, who here in 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, 0 Je - sus, now ap - pear: The ad - vanc - ing, dark-er night is eve - ning is And near. ap - proach - es Go forth as He With al - le - lu - ias clear. Shall live and reign for - ev er When sor-row is no more. A - rise, 0 Sun SO longed for, O'er this be-night-ed sphere. And soon is draw-ing nigh. The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. The The Lamb they shall be - hold; A - round the throne of glo - ry 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 hand. at tri-umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold. In The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free! Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

"Born Again...To Bear Witness to the Light" John 3:5

A Sending Creed (Based on the Apostles' Creed)

God, the sending Father, the Almighty creator of the cosmos, Sent His only Son Jesus Christ to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was sent to proclaim freedom. He then suffered at the hands of many, including Pontius Pilate. He was crucified, died, and buried. Within three days, He descended into hell to proclaim victory and rose to life granting God's righteousness by grace through faith. Forty days later, He ascended to heaven. He now eternally reigns at the right hand of His Father. He is judge of all the living and the dead, and He gives life to all who believe in Him.

After the ascension, the Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit to boldly make and call all followers of Christ to His holy apostolic church. He calls us, a community of believers, who are sent to all people with power and strength, courage, and gifts to proclaim the Good News. As the apostles were sent, people believed. As those people believed, they, too, were sent. As they were sent, now we believe. And as we believe, we are sent. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



LSB 160

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- We give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, for You have delivered us from the power of sin, death, and the devil and have kept us for Your kingdom, which is forever. Grant that we with true thanksgiving receive the bread and wine, that is, the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as a guarantee of the salvation that He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may live joyfully as Your faithful servants, sharing the Good News of God's love and strengthening those who need our encouragement. Receive our prayers and thanksgivings and grant us Your abiding peace. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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.

LSB 163

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Distribution:

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only) LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Post-Communion Collect

(Saturday)

- **P** Let us pray together.
- ☑ I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Sunday)

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

LSB 166

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.





Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>TODAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Carol Ceaglske
Saturday	
Elder	Steve Rosane
Lector	Geri Slaten/Rick Smith
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox

Sunday	
Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	Jon Lindstrom
Greeter	Pat Hurd
Audio	Kyle Welch
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Barbara and Alfred Miller

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor David Roskowic
Organist	Carol Ceaglske
Elder	-
Lector	Kim Kaniecki
Greeter	
Audio	Maria Hazzard
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Barbara and Alfred Miller

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Mid-Week Service Nov. 30	
Saturday Worship Attendance	
Sunday Worship Attendance	
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$550.00
Paypal Offerings	\$0
Website (ShareFaith)	\$0
Total of Offerings Received	\$6,956.00
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$469.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Advent III – Abortion and assisted suicide attempt to acquire one's salvation by violence (Matthew 11:12). But God's kingdom comes as He mercifully preserves at our weakest (Matthew 11:5-6). We need not seize happiness at the expense of others. Rather, we advocate endurance in sufferings such as surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis (James 5:11), and with our support for them we strengthen instead of extinguish (Isaiah 35:3).

FLOWER SPONSOR- No Flower Sponsors this week.

BULLETIN SPONSOR – No Bulletin sponsor this week.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – Team 5 is serving today; team 6 will serve next week. Everyone is invited. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES –Mid-Week Advent Services will be at 6:30 pm, December 14th, and a Blue Christmas Service on December 21st at 6:30 pm.

ANGEL TREE – For many years, Christ Lutheran has purchased Christmas gifts for the children who live at Lighthouse Ministries. This year we have 22 children. On the white tree as you enter the church, you will see tags. Each child has two tags on the tree. One is something the child would like, and the other is something the parent has said the child would like. We asked that all gifts be between \$20-\$25. Please return the gift-UNWRAPPED-with the tag attached by **December 11** (today). There will be a special decorated box for the gifts. We also need donations of gift wrap, gift tags, and scotch tape. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please use one of the special envelopes that are in the pew and mark it for Lighthouse.

GUEST PASTOR NEXT WEEKEND - Pastor David Roskowic of Rockford, IL, has graciously offered to preach next weekend, as well as serve as officiant for the Saturday service. Pastor Roskowic was ordained as part of the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program of the Missouri Synod. As an act of service, he volunteered to serve while traveling to Lakeland. His service to us will enable Pastor Chris to serve the Dreadnaught High School Marching Band as they travel to Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday for the state championship.

ENJOYMENT BOOKS – If you are interested in purchasing an Enjoyment Coupon Book (Polk County) for \$30, please contact Tere Morone at 607-765-0001. Shipping is free and will ship within two days.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPE PACKETS will be available in your church mailboxes in December. Be sure to use these envelopes for your contributions. The only way you can be sure your contributions are recorded properly is by using these envelopes. If you use a pew envelope you must put your envelope number on it or you may not get credit for your contribution. Your contribution is posted only by your envelope number. It is a good idea to leave your envelope packet in your church mailbox so it is handy when you attend service. If you send your offering by the USPS, from your bank, or a personal check, please identify your check by your envelope number just like you do when you are paying a bill. Please do not use these 2023 envelopes until next year. Thank you for your gifts of treasure.

NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2023 - There will be a new 2023 Flower Chart on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. You can sign up to place Flowers in the Altar area in honor of someone, birthdays and anniversaries or any other occasions. Please put your name and what occasion the flowers are for, so it can be noted in the Bulletins. The donations for the flowers are used to purchase the flowers for Easter and Christmas services. If you have any questions call Barbara Miller 863-858-5790

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS – There is still time to bring in your family ornaments for our tree in the Fellowship Hall. We would like a non-breakable ornament that you have written your family name on with a marker. We would prefer Christmas themed ornaments. Let's get this tree covered!

RECIPES WANTED - Mary Martha is collecting favorite recipes for the Church Cookbook. If you have a favorite recipe and would be willing to share it, please write it legibly, sign your name on it and put it in the box located in the Narthex. There is no limit to number of recipes you can submit.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – If you are a seasonal visitor and would be interested in an Associate Membership with Christ Lutheran, please see an Elder.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – For those that are not aware, our church member directory is now available online. Please see the flyer sheets in the narthex for more information or email Kim Kaniecki at stewardship@clclakeland.org.

GREETERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to be Greeters in the Narthex to welcome guest and members as they enter for service. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER DAY – If you are interested in volunteering to help with maintenance around the church, please contact Sandy Spanier at 863-665-5572.

NAMETAGS – We would like to encourage all our members to please wear their nametags to church. If you can't find your nametag or don't have one, please sign-up for one on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER- Isaiah 35:4 – "Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday	Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Tuesday	Quilters @ 10 am
	Trustee/Volunteer Work Day 9 am-Noon
Wednesday	Bible Study @ Noon
	Private Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Advent Service @ 6:30 pm
Friday	Church Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am
	Communications Board Meeting

