

## Second Sunday in Advent December 7, 2025

**As We Gather** - During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Today we shall learn more about our Savior, Jesus, by learning about Mary's husband, Joseph. Jesus, true man, was raised and taught by a human father, Joseph, a faithful husband for Mary.

**Offering and Registry of Worship Cards:** Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family, indicating if they take communion. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. As the offering is collected, pass the cards to the center aisle so our ushers can gather them.

**Saturday Worship:** Offerings and Worship Cards 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.

**About Protecting the Healthy:** To protect yourself and others from infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms 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:**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
The Greeting and Sharing of Peace *(stand)*

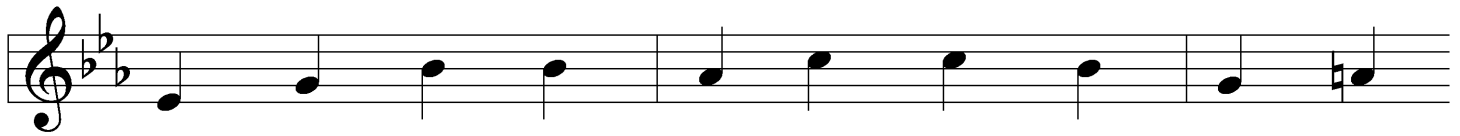
**PREPARATION**

**Hymn of Invocation**

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

LSB 345

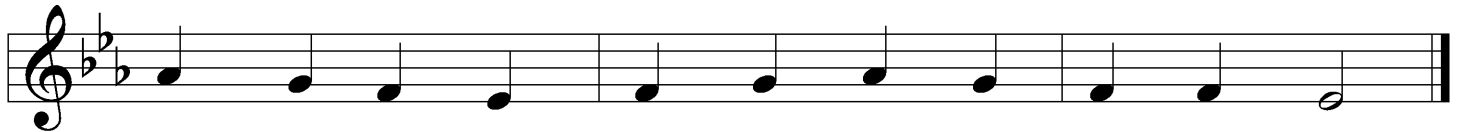
*△ Please stand after a brief interlude.*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89  
Text and tune: Public domain

*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.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!'
- C** **You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.**
- P** In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
- C** **for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."**

## Confession and Absolution

- 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.**

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **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.

## *Service of the Word*

### Introit

*Psalm 105:4-8; Isaiah 40:3*



**P** In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;\*  
make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

**C** Seek the LORD | and his strength;\*  
seek his presence con- | tinually!

**P** Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,\*  
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,

**C** O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,\*  
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!

**P** He is the | LORD our God;\*  
his judgments are in | all the earth.

**C** He remembers his covenant for- | ever,\*  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;\*  
make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**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 mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 15:4–13*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup>And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 3:1-12*

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about

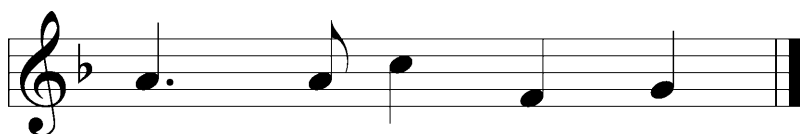


the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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



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

## Children's Sermon



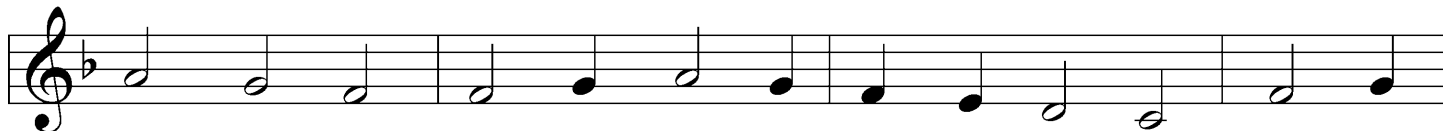
*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### The New King David: King of the Universe Isaiah 11: 1-10

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

**C** 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.

## Prayer of the Church

Sit

**Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Comfort, My People" by Ian Callahan**

**Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)**

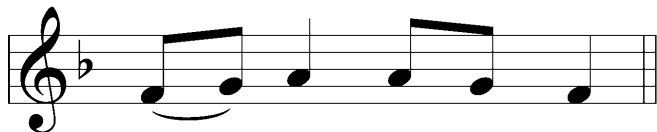
**Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only)** – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

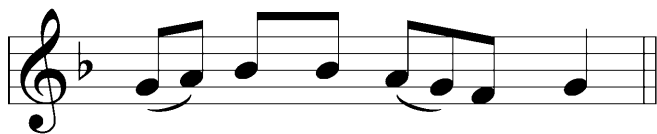
LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is good, right, and fitting that we might sing at all times and in every place, but most especially on this day, when we, Your people, assemble anew to hear Your Word and receive Your Holy Sacrament. Now we join our voices with those of every time and place to praise Your goodness in sending forth Your own Son as the bearer of Your mercy to forgive Your people from their sin and raise them to life again. Remembering the voice of the prophet and John, the forerunner, and giving thanks for the apostles who proclaimed His coming and the saints who delivered to us the sacred deposit so that we might believe, we add our voices to the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven in their unending hymn of praise, singing:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** In speaking all things into being, You manifested both Your goodness and Your love. In sending forth the promise of a Savior, You showed forth Your compassion and mercy. In the fullness of time You brought forth Your promise, sending into the womb of the virgin by the power of the Spirit Your only-begotten Son. As He has accomplished all things for our salvation by the one, all-sufficient offering of His body on the cross, we give You thanks and praise that You have counted us worthy to stand before You and to receive the precious gift of His grace in His Meal, which He established by His own will and testament.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** 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."

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

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

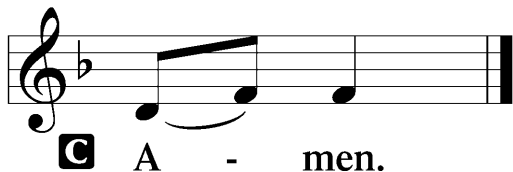
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final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

**C 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.**

## Pax Domini

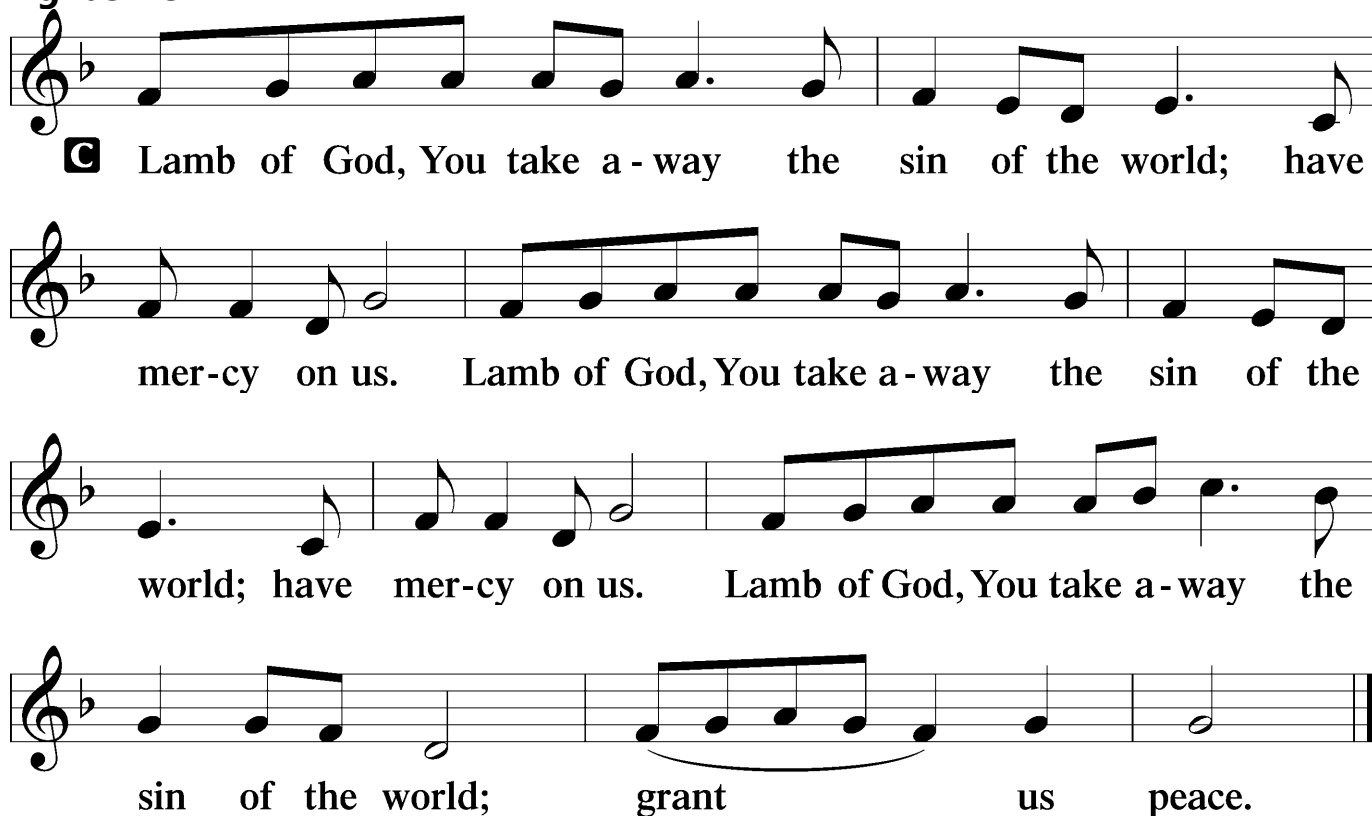
LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## Distribution

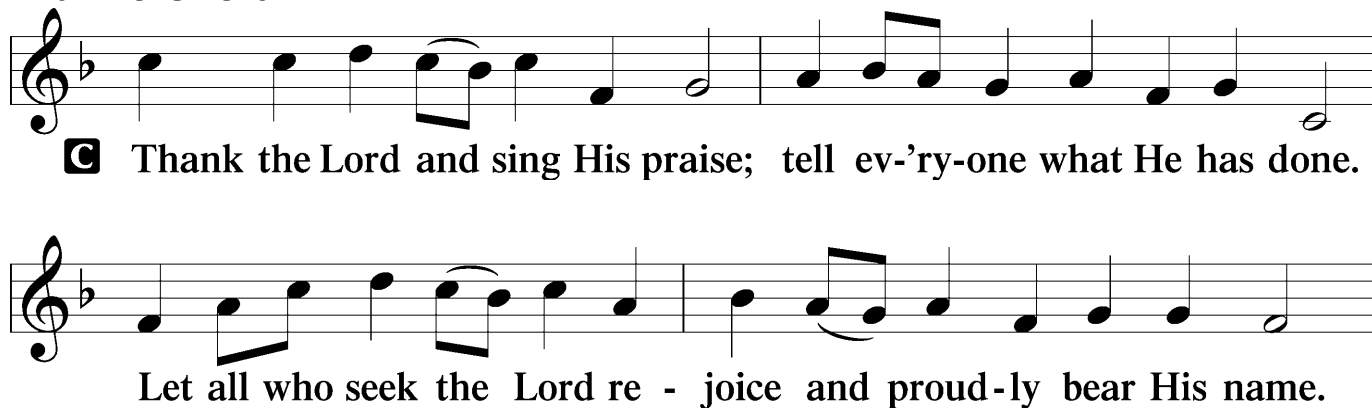
### *Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)*

LSB 357 **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
LSB 359 **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

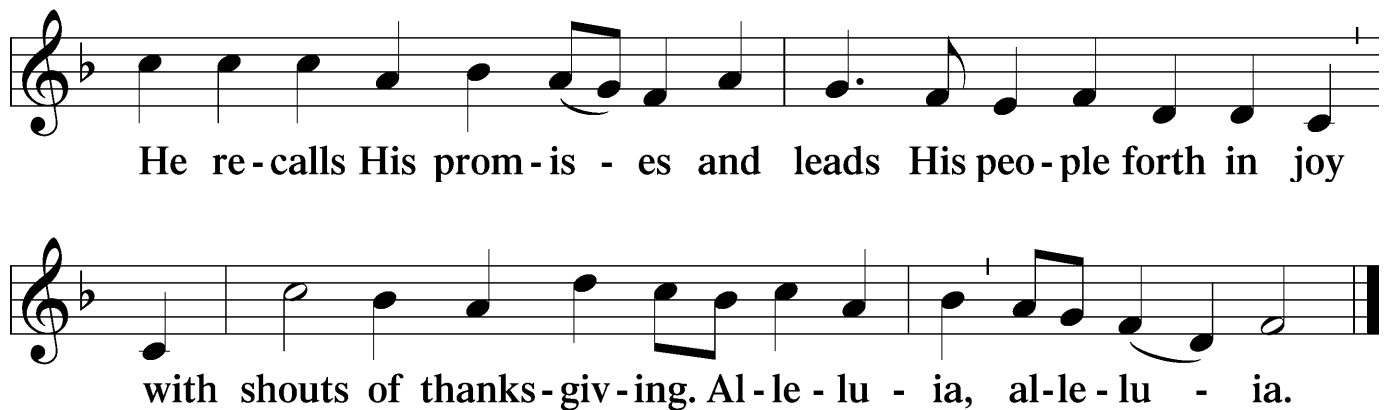
*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear His name.



## Post-Communion Collect

### *(Saturday)*

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## 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.



## Closing Hymn:

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

△ Please stand after a brief interlude.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude:

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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### LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor** ..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard  
**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska

#### Saturday

**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska  
**Elder**..... Steve West  
**Lector** ..... Gerie Slaten

#### Sunday

**Elder**..... Carlos Orellana  
**Lector** ..... Levi Hazzard  
**Greeter**..... Dave and Lora Wacker  
**Audio** ..... Kyle Welch  
**Video**..... Video/Streaming: Kris Welch  
GFX: Roland Feickert  
**Altar Guild** ..... Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier

### LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

**Pastor** ..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard  
**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska  
**Elder**..... Keith Kallstrom  
**Lector** ..... Carlos Orellana  
**Greeter**.....  
**Audio** ..... Kim Kaniecki  
**Video**..... Video/Streaming: Josiah Hazzard  
GFX: Andrea Hazzard  
**Altar Guild** ..... Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier

### ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Attendance .....40  
Saturday Worship Attendance .....16  
Sunday Worship Attendance .....95  
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings.....\$0  
Simply Giving/Vanco .....\$0  
Paypal Offerings.....\$0  
Website (ShareFaith) .....\$0  
**Total of Offerings Received** .....\$0  
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts .....\$0

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH** – *Advent 2* - We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written for our instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWER SPONSOR** – Robert and Cheryl Langanke in memory of James Fleck.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** – Dave and Lora Wacker.

**MARY MARTHA QUILTERS** - Mary Martha Quilters meet each Wednesday at 10 am. All Ladies from the congregation are invited to come. You don't have to be a quilter or know how to sew as we need people who can cut, arrange, and tie.

**MARY MARTHA DECORATING** - Mary Martha will be decorating the Fellowship Hall for the holidays on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Your Family is invited and encouraged to place an ornament on the tree. Please put your family name on the ornament! There will be a box set up in the Fellowship Hall for ornaments. Everyone is invited to help us decorate. We will also be holding a "*Sunday Undies*" for children in need. Collection will begin this week and the until December 21<sup>st</sup>. A box will be placed in the Narthex. This is for new, packaged socks and underwear for children! If you are able, please contribute.

**MARY MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Mary Martha will hold its annual Christmas Party/ luncheon on Wednesday, December 10. After our monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30, we will go to: Il Forno Italian Restaurant (Northside), 6617 N Socrum Loop, Lakeland, Florida. Our reservation is for 11:00 am. All Ladies of our congregation are invited to attend! Everyone pays for their meals which range from \$12-\$15. We shall be playing reindeer games and have some giveaways! We would love for you to join us!

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY)** – Team 3 is serving today; Team 1 will be serving next week. Everyone is invited! There is no charge, and a freewill offering is voluntary. Our Fellowship offerings for December will be Top Button.

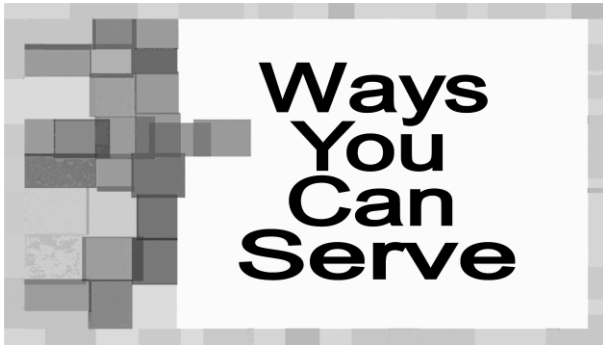
**THRIVENT CHOICE** - Did you know? If you have a Thrivent Life Insurance policy, you can donate "Choice Dollars" to our church. This gift doesn't affect your policy in any way, but is a wonderful way to support the church financially! Follow this link for more information: [Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing - Thrivent Charitable](#).

**ELDERS MEETING** – There will be an Elders Meeting today after service.

**OUTREACH MEETING** – Outreach meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

**CIVITAN MEETINGS** – The Lakeland Polk Civitan Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at Il Forno (North). Join us at a meeting and see what we're all about!

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP** – Sign-up sheets through August 2026 are now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each sheet will now be posted quarterly, by season, so that as a season passes, a new sheet will be put up, rather than one sheet used for the entire year. There are still some spaces open for the remainder of 2025. It would be a blessing to see those filled! Additional information is available on the poster, immediately next to the signup sheets. Specially designated envelopes are available below the poster. Altar flower offerings go toward our Christmas and Easter live flowers, as well as toward the proper upkeep and refreshing of our silk arrangements used throughout the year.



**HELP WANTED** - The Church is in need of workers in several positions around the Church. These include Ushers, Offering Counters, Altar Guild, Lectors, Sound Board, Video Assistance, Elders (requires one year membership), and many other opportunities to serve. Please consider using your time and talents in some way here at Christ Lutheran.

**ADOPT-A-BLOCK** – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – To reserve your spot on the team or if you have questions, please contact either Lora Wacker or Pastor Chris.

**TRUSTEE WORKDAY** - The Trustee Workday is each Wednesday from 9am – 1pm. If you would like to help with the various needs of the church, come join us. A job, whether large or small can be found to help with. If you notice something you think needs attention, come let us know. Thanks for helping.

**DREAM CENTER VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are needed to help check-in and sort items here at Christ Lutheran for the Dream Center. Please see or contact Pastor Chris to schedule a day and time to volunteer.

**CHECK YOUR MAILBOX** – Please check your mailbox in the Narthex.

**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 [stewardship@clclakeland.org](mailto:stewardship@clclakeland.org).

**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**

*Matthew 3:1-2* – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.



### **THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Monday – 12/8</u></b> Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm Mary Martha – Decorating of the Fellowship Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tuesday – 12/9</u></b> Adopt-A-Block @ 11 am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Wednesday – 12/10</u></b> Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran Trustee Workday @ 9 am Mary Martha @ 9:30 am, followed by the Christmas Party @ Il Forno's @ 11 am Quilters @ 10 am Individual Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm Choir Practice @ 5:00 pm Advent Service @ 6:30 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Thursday – 12/11</u></b> Bible Study @ 10 am Civitan Meeting @ 12 noon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Friday – 12/12</u></b> Church Office closed Pastor's day off</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Saturday – 12/13</u></b> Worship @ 5:30 pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sunday – 12/14</u></b> Bible Study @ 8:30 am Worship @ 10 am</p>	