

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C



OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are **bolded text**.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE- *Break Forth, O beauteous Heav'nly Light*

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
and usher in the morning.
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning:
this child, now weak in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be,
the pow'r of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.*

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
to herald our salvation.
He stoops to earth, the God of might,
our hope and expectation.
He comes in human flesh to dwell,
our God with us, Immanuel,
the night of darkness ending,
our fallen race befriending.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom,

to watch over strangers, and to set prisoners free.

As we light these three candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us,

and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

*O come, O Herald, voice of grace,
Proclaim salvation's vast embrace;
The ax lies waiting at the root—
Prepare our hearts to bear good fruit.*

*O come, O Fire, with Spirit's might,
To purify and give us sight;
Consume the chaff, the fruitless tree,
And set our hearts from sinning free.*

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN— ELW 267: *Joy to the World*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing. | 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. |

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Leader Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Leader Chri - ste e - le - i - son. All Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Leader Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

FIRST READING— ZEPHANIAH 3: 14-20

Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem. The Lord has removed your judgment and has turned away your enemy. The Lord, the ruler of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer fear evil. On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem: Don't fear, Zion. Don't let your hands fall. The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory, who will create calm with love and will rejoice over you with singing.

I will remove from you those worried about the appointed feasts. They have been a burden for her, a reproach. Watch what I am about to do to all your oppressors at that time. I will deliver the lame; I will gather the outcast. I will change their shame into praise and fame throughout the earth. At that time, I will bring all of you back, at the time when I gather you. I will give you fame and praise among all the neighboring peoples when I restore your possessions before your eyes, says the Lord.

“Word of God, Word of Life.” Thanks be to God.

ACS 926: Surely God Is My Salvation



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,
2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter
3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is
from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
God Al - mighty - y for these won - drous deeds.
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!

Sing ho-san - na!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

SECOND READING— PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Amen.

“Word of God, Word of Life.” **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Come with fire, O Lord, to cleanse us,
Root out chaff and clear the field.
Hearts made pure will bear Your goodness,
In Your truth, our hope is sealed!*

GOSPEL— LUKE 3:7-18

The Gospel according to... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, We have Sarah and Abraham as our parents. I tell you that God is able to raise up Sarah and Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.” Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?” He answered, “Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out.” With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

This is the Good news. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON— PR. RON

HYMN OF THE DAY— ELW 256: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for Karen, Julie, Sandy, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, the family and friends of Ken Reid, and the family and friends of Derek H. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

What else do the people of God pray for?

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

The white juice in the center rim is non-alcoholic, the red on the outside is wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

OFFERING

For nearly two thousand years, churches across the globe have collected a weekly offering for God's work in the world. In addition to paying our staff and utilities, these monies also go toward feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the ill, and natural disaster work, in partnership with Lutherans around the world.

OFFERTORY MUSIC— *The Cherry Tree Carol* (on insert)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.

In the night in which he was arrested, Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new promise, my very life, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.



Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;



as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,



comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.



At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:

“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, is the Lord, God Most High!”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
 Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, ten piedad de nosotros.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
 Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Danos la paz. Danos la paz.*

COMMUNION HYMN— LBW 312: Once He Came in Blessing

1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us; still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if you have known him, not a - shamed to own him,
 4 Those who then are loy - al find a wel - come roy - al.

came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us; would to truth con - vert us
 nor have spurned him cold - ly, but will trust him bold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us; hope and free - dom gave us.
 from our fool - ish er - ror ere he comes in ter - ror.
 he will then re - ceive you, heal you, and for - give you.
 let us here con - fess you, till in heav'n we bless you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

The Nunc Dimittis (Latin=Now You Dismiss), first sung by Simeon at Jesus' dedication at the temple when he was 8 days old (Luke 2) and today from Advent through Epiphany, reminds us how we too have just encountered Christ at the table.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
will be for - ev - er. A - - men.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN— ELW 264: *Prepare the Royal Highway*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today– Christmas Coffee Hour

Dec 18th– 7:30pm—Holden Evening Prayer @
Hope Lutheran

Dec 19th— Handbell Concert 7:15-7:45pm
followed by Caroling! Invite your friends and
neighbors

Dec 24th– Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Ministers: The Congregation

Presiding/Preaching: Pr. Ron Valadez

Minister of Music: Daniel Alley

Guitarists: George Fosselius

Guest Cantor: Veronica Renner

Lector: Scott

Coffee Hour:

Usher:

Communion Set-up/Clean-up:

Worship Assistant:

Flowers: Greens

PASTOR RON’S OFF WEEKS:

December 25th-31st

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CLC

Sunday

9:00 AM-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM CLC Worship

12:00 PM Good Table Worship

Monday

9:00 AM-3:00 PM Senior Center

Tuesday

7:00 PM Lady AA Meeting

Thursday

7:00 PM– Handbell Rehearsal

Saturday

6:00 PM Millenium AA Meeting

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Julie D.	Mark M.	Brook
Mike and Liz S.	George G.	Jerome S.
Chad B.	Philip Y.	Barbara LM
TJ Baar	Maryann H.	Robin
The Vale Community	Heidi Jan	Will K. George & Cindy F.
Robin & Wendy	Roz	
Sandy Z.	Pat	Thelma & Mike G.
Carolina S.	Duwayne	Diane L.
Orlando G.	Joan	Carla L.
Karen H.	Pastor Doris Ng	The family and friends of Ken R.
Laurie P.	Evie D.	
Fred	Dee	The family and friends of Derek H.
Molly B.	Anna	

DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the “Giving” tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tiekou at 510-290-2125

WORSHIP FROM HOME!

Join us and invite friends and neighbors to our Sunday worship service!

Facebook Livestream: Every Sunday morning there will be a video livestream of worship available on our church [Facebook](#).

Online Bulletins: Bulletins for each worship service are available online every week. To download a copy, go to the church website and visit our [Bulletins page](#).