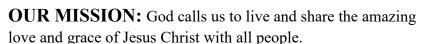
# SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH, 2024









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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**



### 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.



### 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."

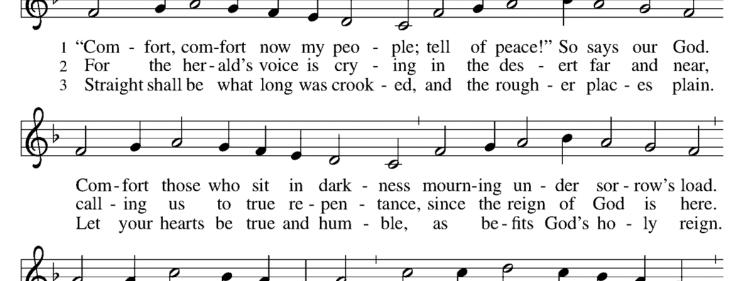
The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized 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."

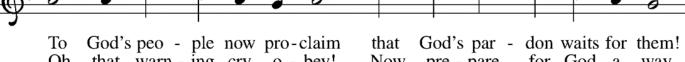
The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.

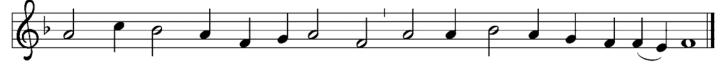
### SERMON-PR. RON

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





Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now for God a pre - pare way. For the glo - ry the Lord on earth is shed a - broad, of now



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.

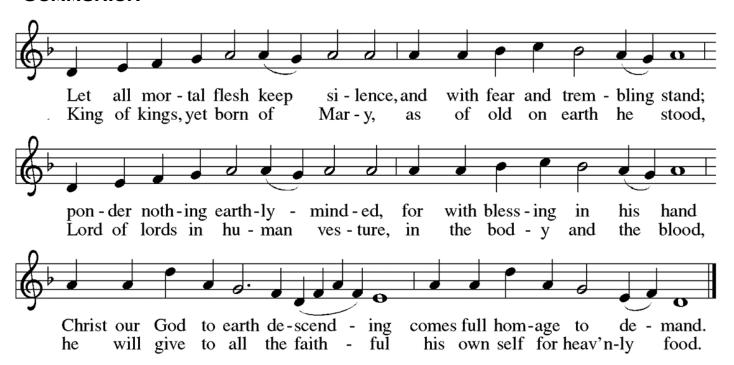
#### OFFERING

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**

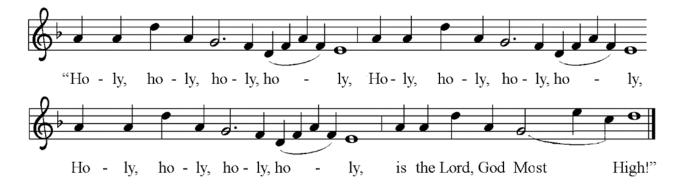
#### COMMUNION



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.





### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

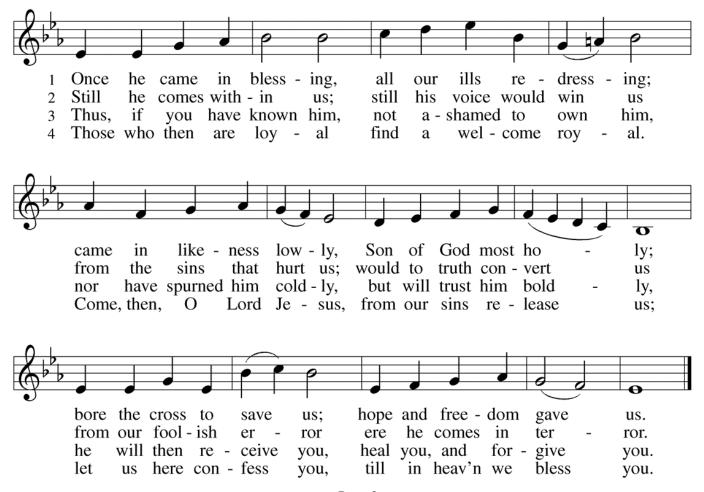
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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



## **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.



## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

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



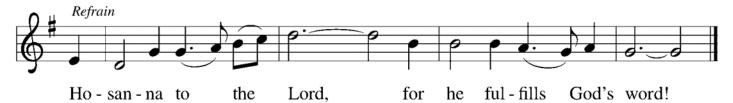
- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo ple, see him com ing: your own e ter nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen to greet your prom-ised king!
- 4 His is no earth ly king dom; it comes from heav'n a bove.



ev - 'ry hill and val - ley lev - el Let a 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. is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and His 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:



### 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	Heidi	Will K.
Community	Jan	George & Cindy
Robin & Wendy	Roz	F.
Sandy Z.	Pat	Thelma & Mike
Carolina S.	Duwayne	G.
Orlando G.	Joan	Diane L.
Karen H.	Pastor Doris Ng	Carla L.
Laurie P.	Evie D.	The family and
Fred		friends of Ken R.
Molly B.	Dee	The family and
Mony D.	Anna	friends of Derek H.

## **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 Tieku 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 <u>Bulletins page</u>.