

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a Church Home?

Mr. Rogers once asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who is your neighbor?" At Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) - Zionsville, our answer to Jesus' question is EVERYONE, and to Mr. Rogers - YES.

God calls us to meet people wherever they are in their journey of faith – and that includes YOU!

At Christ Lutheran Church you are welcomed, just as you are:

- Single, committed, married, divorced, lost your partner, still looking or not.
- Every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- Ready to join a group or prefer to sit back
- Regardless of knowing a little or a lot about Jesus
- Whether you have left the Church and are returning
- Whether you find yourself on this list or not

We are calling YOU neighbor! Join us!

Children in Worship

Children hold a special place in our congregation! We warmly invite children of all ages to join us in worship. We embrace their natural tendencies to giggle, poke, squirm, and swing their legs - it's all part of being a child and a precious gift to our community.

Our nursery is available from **10:30 to 11:30**, staffed by dedicated caregivers who will lovingly care for infants and toddlers. This allows parents to fully engage in worship, knowing their little ones are in safe hands. The nursery provides age-appropriate toys and a comforting environment, ensuring your child's needs are met while you worship with the congregation.

We respect and support each family's unique circumstances and preferences. Whether your child joins the main worship service or utilizes our nursery, we are here to accommodate and make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

C Amen.

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF BROKENESS / CONFESSION

P Everlasting God,

C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*****ELW 257**

(Continued on next page)



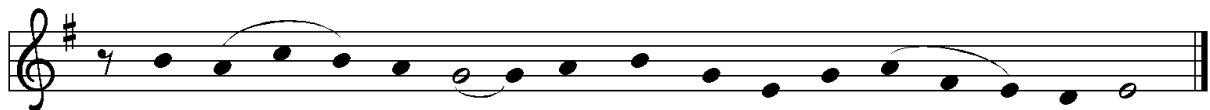
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Please be seated.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Choir:

Maker of the stars of night, of the sun by day,
Rise in us and bring your light; burn our shadows away.
In the darkness where we dwell, we await the light of God,
Emmanuel.

Responsively:

P During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

C Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

C Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

C Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

C Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

P We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

C Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

Today we light the first candle. The first candle, reminds us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who brings hope to a hurting world. As our counselor, Jesus brings hope in times of despair, compassion in times of sorrow, and healing in times of brokenness. As we begin the season of Advent, let our hope reside in the One who cares about our needs and sustains our faith.

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,
Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with
us, Em - man - u - el.

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PRAYER FOLLOWING LIGHTING

Gracious Lord, we thank you for being our Wonderful Counselor. As we begin our Advent journey, help us to know the abiding hope that comes from knowing you. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **C Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 64:1-9

- L ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

L ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**C ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C ⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**C ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

L ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**C ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

L ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL MARK 13:24-37

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P You are witness to these things.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeannie Phillips

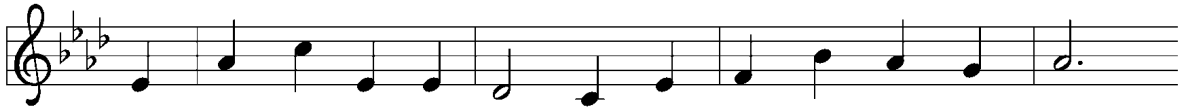
SERMON

Pastor Wes

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



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;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
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 at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

APOSTLES' CREED

P Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common faith:

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning - all of God's Church..

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence

P Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially **Kathy, Bill, Martha, Kat, Wilder, Dorothy, Marilyn, Joe, Mary, Mimi, Mike, Steve, Victoria, Theresa, Dave, Jonny, Dennis, Janice, Patrick, and LCFS**. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

Arise, Shine
~ Sanctuary Choir ~

Leavitt

Please rise as you are able.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord is with you.

C And also 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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C 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

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Wes.

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a wafer from Pastor Wes and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Once you eat the wafer you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Heart I Come

Walther



SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Lector:	Brad Holtz
Communion Assistant:	Jeannie Phillips
Greeter:	Julia Hill
Usher:	Toni Firmani
Nursery:	Chris Emsley
Hospitality:	Gretchen Jeffers, Andi Hardesty
Financial Assistants:	Anne Behrend, Linda Callecod
Altar Guild:	Barbara Burkhardt, Connie Steinhart, Linda Callecod
AV Assistant	Bill Beck

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