

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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

What Child is This?



December 17, 2023 ~ 10:30am
Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists

"What Child is This?", a choral cantata by John Leavitt, will be shared during our morning worship service on Sunday, December 17th at 10:30am.

"What Child is This?" features well-known carols, some not-so-well known carols as well as some newly composed music that celebrates the coming of our Savior. Soloists and instrumentalists will accompany this work.

Invite your family, neighbors and friends to worship with us Sunday, December 17th.

PRELUDE

Prelude on Divinum Mysterium

arr. Bock

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

(Continued on next page)



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:



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

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 Mighty God.

C You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

P We look to the One in whom we find redemption.

C You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

P We look to the One who forgives our sins.

C You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

P We look to the One who overcomes the darkness.

C You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

P We look to the One who has come to set us free.

C You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness endures forever.

Today we light two candles. The first candle reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The second candle reminds us of our joy, knowing that Jesus is our Mighty God. As we light the second candle we remember that even when we face trials, hardships and difficulties – our strength is found in what Christ has done. As we continue our Advent journey, let us rejoice in the One in who gives strength to the weary and power to the weak.

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, remind us of your power throughout this Advent season. In times of weakness, remind us that you are the One who gives strength. In times of confusion, remind us that you are the One who reveals truth. In times of doubt, remind us that you are the One who gives hope. We thank you for being our Mighty God. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING ISAIAH 40:1-11

L ¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

L ¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**C ²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

L ⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**C ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

L ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

L ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**C ¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING 2 PETER 3:8-15a

L ⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.


¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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 1:1-8

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P You are witness to these things.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kristen Hess

SERMON

Pastor Wes

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256



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.

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 Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal especially **Rose, Kathy, Bill, Martha, Kat, Wilder, Dorothy, Marilyn, Joe, Mary, Mimi, Mike, Steve, Victoria, Theresa, Dave, Jonny, Dennis, Janice, Patrick, and LCFS**. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. 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

Advent Prayer
~ Kantorei ~
Chloe Hull, flautist

arr. Liebergen

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

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.

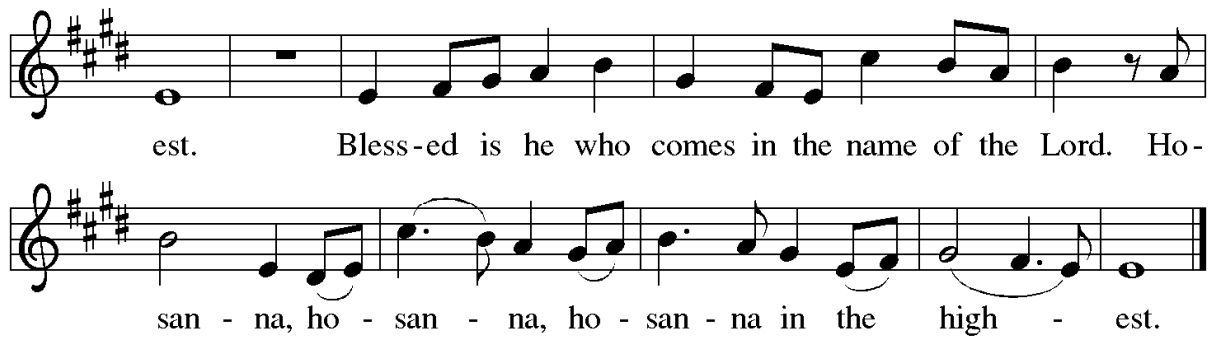
PREFACE

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 -



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 Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249



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 you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, 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.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Spong



SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Advent Candle Lighting:	Compton Family
Lector:	Tony Firmani
Communion Assistant:	Connie Niessink
Greeter:	Barbara Starkey
Usher:	JoAnne Tuffnell
Nursery:	Amy Holtz
Hospitality:	Candice Berger, Chris Emsley
Financial Assistants:	Anne Behrend, Tom Jones
Altar Guild:	Barbara Burkhart, Connie Steinhart, Linda Callecod
AV Assistant	Bob Behrend

CONTACT INFORMATION

600 North Ford Road, Zionsville, IN 46077 | clczionsville.org | 317-873-3242

Wes Smith

Pastor
pastor@clczionsville.org

Tina Lizama

Office Administrator
office@clczionsville.org

Rhonda Blacklock

Music Director
musicdirector@clczionsville.org

Melissa Woldman

Preschool Director
preschool@clczionsville.org, 317-873-3232

Connie Niessink

Governance Board President
president@clczionsville.org

Connie Steinhart

Financial Secretary
giving@clczionsville.org