



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain***

*ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God’s Word!*

**2 God’s people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him!
All nations, now adore him! *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

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.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- 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.

Kyrie

LSB 152 (Sung)

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
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 mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.

C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.
- P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

Nursery care for small children is offered from this point in the service through Holy Communion. Children may meet their caregivers in the back of the sanctuary.

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.””

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

- 1 **“Comfort, comfort ye My people,
 Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
 “Comfort those who sit in darkness,
 Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
 Speak ye to Jerusalem
 Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell her that her sins I cover
 And her warfare now is over.”**

- 2 **Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
 Blotting out each dark misdeed;
 All that well deserved his anger
 He no more will see or heed.
 She hath suffered many_a day,
 Now her griefs have passed away;
 God will change her pining sadness
 Into ever-springing gladness.**

- 3 **Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
 In the desert far and near,
 Calling sinners to repentance,
 Since the Kingdom now is here.
 O that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way;
 Let the valleys rise to meet him
 And the hills bow down to greet him.**

- 4 **Make ye straight what long was crooked;
 Make the rougher places plain.
 Let your hearts be true and humble,
 As befits his holy reign.**

For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That his Word is never broken.

Homily

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Prayers of the Church

Presentation of the Offering

Stand

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be 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 him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

LSB 161

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Sit

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by

the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 **Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

- 2 **He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

- 3 **He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

- 4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With thy belovèd name.**

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

- 1 **Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.**

- 2 **Prepare the way before him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.**

3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you
This blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly
And forth your glory show.

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

LSB 355 (tune 344)

1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob's line rain down the King.

3 O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.

4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will you come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to you, our Savior King;
There shall we laud you and adore
Forever and forevermore.

Stand

Benediction

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.

C Amen.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next he comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

Announcements

Sending

Serving in worship today

December 10, 2023

Pastor

Jason Neel

Elders

Chuck Johnson

Wayne Chambard

Reader

Betsy Will

Acolyte

Zach Weinhold

Usher

Art Hayden

Organist

Karine Platt

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Peter Welle 12/11, Tim Welle 12/11, John Riebe 12/12, Jerry Berg 12/15, and Sue Anderson 12/16.

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays: Cheryl Herschman 12/11, Jerry Berg 12/15, Rick Welle 12/16, and Gwen Mikish 12/16.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Elder Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Advent Service
	7:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	1:00 p.m.	Private Event (Cub Scouts)
	4:00 p.m.	Feed My Starving Children-Youth
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program

Notes of Information:

Children's Christmas Program: Please join our Sunday School kids for a fun Christmas program next Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Youth Bake Sale: The annual Bake Sale held by the Middle School and High School Youth Groups is TODAY. We will be set up and ready for you following worship service. The prices are free will offering and proceeds will be used to fund our upcoming service projects and our trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans Louisiana in July of 2025. Your generosity is appreciated.

Everyone His Witness: Everyone His Witness class starts at 5:30 p.m. on January 21st going through the beginning of March. (Skipping Superbowl Sunday).

Thank-You from NACE:

To Spirit of Christ Women's Ministry

Thank you for your generous donation of \$51.26. Your gift allows us to secure and distribute nutritious food as well as toiletries like toothpaste and bar soap to families, seniors, adults and children. Thank you for doing so much to help our community during these especially difficult times when the need is so high. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Feed My Starving Children: Next Saturday, the middle school and high school youth will be packing meals for Feed My Starving Children. We will be

meeting at church at 3:45 p.m. We will pack meals from 4:30-6:30 p.m. We will return to church to have a pizza party and some Christmas games. Please plan to pick your youth up at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person to cover the cost of pizza.

Youth Fundraising Calendars and Christmas Greeting Cards: 2024 calendars, Christmas greeting cards and magnetic notepads are here. Cost of Calendars is \$10, cost for cards is \$10, and cost for magnetic note pads \$5. Items will be available in the Narthex following service.

Life By Design Adopt a Family: We will be sponsoring households and individuals from Life by Design to bring them a bit of Christmas cheer! There are wish list items on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to help fill wish lists, please take an envelope and return the items on the list wrapped and labeled by Wednesday December 20th.

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs new socks in all sizes. They are also now accepting summer clothing items. You can leave nonperishable food and other donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665

Women's Coffee Group: Please join us on Wednesday, December 20th at 10 am for an incredibly special performance by our very own Todd Anderson.

Hope for Youth: Every Christmas the youth that use the facilities at Hope 4 Youth can ask for items for themselves and family for the Christmas Season. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off in the box located in the narthex labeled "H4Y". These are the items they ask for: Small tool kits, silverware sets, emergency car kits, Adult art supplies (paint, brushes, sketch books) board games, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent pods, toilet paper packs, lotions, body washes, towels, pillows, warm hats and gloves, gift cards for Target, Walmart, Gas stations. If you have any questions, contact Beth Gerard 763-228-2077

Prayer Cards/Prayer Box- Please find in the narthex blue prayer request cards, and a small slotted black box for your requests. A need for continuing prayers for healing of body, mind, and spirit, was identified at our recent Women's Wellness Day. A Prayer Partner will privately and confidentially pray for you, and those in your life in need of healing. Names are optional. You may write on the back of the card if needed. Jesus promises that those who ask will receive, those who seek will find, and to those who knock, the door will be opened. Come with confidence to the prayer box.

Change in Sunday worship on December 24: Christmas Eve falls on Sunday

this year, please note that there will **NOT** be Sunday morning worship on December 24th. We look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas Eve at our 4 pm or 9 pm services.

Sermons and bulletins posted online: Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at **www.spiritofchristhamlake.org**.

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at soclc.org to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$5920
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6662

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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Ministers: All Members
Music Director
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