





# 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!

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December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

## Welcome

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

LSB 379

**1** O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

*ref* O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

**2** Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**3** Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain*

**4** Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *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** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**
- P** We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- C** **We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment.
- C** **For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**
- P** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
- C** **so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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

- P** When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as God's children. You are no longer a slave, but an heir. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## 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** Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and

yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our 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**

*Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16*

The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

<sup>11</sup>“After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, <sup>12</sup>you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. <sup>13</sup>Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

<sup>14</sup>“In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ <sup>16</sup>And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Leviticus 12:1-8*

The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. <sup>3</sup>On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. <sup>4</sup>Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. <sup>5</sup>If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding.

<sup>6</sup>“When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. <sup>7</sup>He shall offer

them before the LORD to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood.

“These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. <sup>8</sup> But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Third Reading

*Galatians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

**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

*Luke 2:22-40*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

### *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*LSB 380*

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain***

*ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

**3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,**

Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

## 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 ✠ 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.*

***What Feast of Love***

WOV 701

- 1** What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?

*Ref This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!*

- 2** What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given? *Refrain*

- 3** What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given? *Refrain*

***God Loves Me Dearly***

LSB 392

- 1** God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me. *Refrain*

*ref Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.*

- 2** I was in slav'ry,  
Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free. *Refrain*

- 3** He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free. *Refrain*

4 Jesus, my Savior,  
Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Paid all I owed. *Refrain*

5 Now I will praise you,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise you  
All my life long. *Refrain*

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

LSB 389

1 Let all together praise our God  
Before his glorious throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
To give us his own Son,  
To give us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

3 Within an earthborn form he hides  
His all-creating light;  
To serve us all he humbly cloaks  
The splendor of his might,  
The splendor of his might.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us his realm,  
His glory, and his name,  
His glory, and his name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than he,  
No truer friend than he.

6 He is the key and he the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise you evermore.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

LSB 388

*ref* Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

**Dismissal**

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 937

- 1 Lord, bid your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.
- 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;

**To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.**

*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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen.

*Joy to the World*

*LSB 387*

- 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 men 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 sins and sorrows 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.**

**Announcements**

**Sending**

## **Serving in worship today**

December 31, 2023

### **Pastor**

Jason Neel

### **Elders**

Kevin Zimmerman

Phil Marquardt

### **Reader**

Renee Chambard

### **Acolyte**

Zach Weinhold

### **Usher**

Mike Voegele

### **Organist**

Karine Platt

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Larry Waterman 12/31, Jim Gunderson 1/4, and Bridget Smith 1/6.

**Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays:** Ralph Fuerst 1/1, Breanna Smith 1/1, Georgia Kedrowski 1/1, Richard Gerard 1/1, and Leona Stockwell 1/3.

### **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	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
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

## **Notes of Information:**

**Confirmation:** No confirmation this week; we will have confirmation on January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> this month.

**Women's Bible Study:** Women's Bible Study will be held this Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am.

**Women's Wednesday Morning Coffee Group:** Please join us January 17<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome to join us for treats, coffee, conversation, lots of conversation. This month I will be giving some tips on "improving your balance". I promise I will not make you do anything silly, just watch me try to balance. Any questions contact Beth Gerard 763-228-2077

**Puzzle Exchange:** We are looking at having a jigsaw puzzle exchange in January! Gather any puzzles you would like to exchange and bring them to church on January 14<sup>th</sup> ! If you have any questions please contact Angie Hagel.

**Everyone His Witness:** Everyone His Witness class starts at 5:30 p.m. on January 21<sup>st</sup> going through the beginning of March. (Skipping Super Bowl Sunday).

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs new socks in all sizes. 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

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, and Matthew 2:1-12



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://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.

Church Office: 763-755-7234

Pastor Jason Neel: [soclepastor@gmail.com](mailto:soclepastor@gmail.com)

Ministers: All Members

Music Director

John Peterson: [carsinger@aol.com](mailto:carsinger@aol.com)

Office e-mail: [secretary@soclc.org](mailto:secretary@soclc.org)

Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): [Sd\\_hurst@yahoo.com](mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>