



He will take great delight in you  
*In his love he will no longer rebuke you,*  
But will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17b



## 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 15, 2024

*Second Sunday of Advent*

### Welcome

#### *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 Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly  
And forth your glory show.

*Stand*

### Invocation and Opening Sentences

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**C** Who made heaven and earth.  
**P** If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.  
**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God be merciful to me, a sinner.  
**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal*

*sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

- 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

## 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).*

## Kyrie (*Spoken*)

LSB 152

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## 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 give all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation: through Jesus Christ, our

Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## **First Reading**

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.

<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

<sup>18</sup> “I will remove from you  
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,  
which is a burden and reproach for you.

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you.

I will rescue the lame;

I will gather the exiles.

I will give them praise and honor  
in every land where they have suffered shame.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.

I will give you honor and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes

before your very eyes,”  
says the LORD.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 205*

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26-38*

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

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

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

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

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

*Sit*

***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You***

*ELW 241 (tune LSB 442)*

- 1 **O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart’s delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,  
your lamp within my breast  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.**
- 2 **I lay in fetters, groaning;  
you came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
you came to honor me.  
A glorious crown you give me,  
a treasure safe on high  
that will not fail or leave me  
as earthly riches fly.**
- 3 **Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace**

**in love, all love excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.**

- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
who sit in deepest gloom,  
who mourn your joys departed  
and tremble at your doom.  
All hail the Lord's appearing!  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
send forth your beams so cheering  
and guide us safely home.**

## **Homily**

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**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**

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass  
it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all  
those who are worshiping and receiving communion with us today.  
Stand*

### **Preface**

*spoken*

- 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 208*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heaven and earth with full acclaim  
Shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest,

**Sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is he who comes in the name of our Lord!**

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Words of our Lord**

#### *Agnus Dei*

*LSB 210*

**☐ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*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.*

### ***O Come All Ye Faithful***

*Bell Choir*

### ***Creator of the Stars of Night***

*LSB 351 (tune 377)*

**1 Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting Light:**

O Christ, Redeemer, save us all  
And hear thy servants when they call.  
Our God takes great delight in you  
Give thanks and praise, his love is true.

2 Thou, grieving that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
Hast found the healing, full of grace,  
To cure and save our ruined race.  
Our God takes great delight in you  
Give thanks and praise, his love is true.

3 Thou cam'st the Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eventide,  
The spotless Victim all divine  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine.  
Our God takes great delight in you  
Give thanks and praise, his love is true.

4 At whose dread name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things celestial thee shall own,  
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.  
Our God takes great delight in you  
Give thanks and praise, his love is true.

*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.

*Know That My Redeemer Lives*

*LSB 461*

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with his eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;

He lives to bring me safely there.

- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

## Dismissal

*Stand*

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

- 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.

## *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

*LSB 515*

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising  
And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain  
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches  
With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
Their cross and sufferings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever  
When sorrow is no more.

**Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him  
Their diadems of gold.**

**4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption  
That sets your people free!**

*Sit*

## **Announcements**

### **Sending**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Serving in worship today

December 15, 2024

## Pastor

Jason Neel

## Acolyte

Zack Weinhold

## Usher

Jan Fuerst

## Nursery

Kassidy Bryan

## Elders

Kevin Zimmerman

Wayne Chambard

## Reader

Peggy Peterson

## In our prayers

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Jerry Berg 12/15, Shelby Parson 12/15, Sue Anderson 12/16, Luna Furman 12/17, and Dixie Kolk 12/18.

**Celebrating Baptisms:** Jerry Berg 12/15, Gwen Mikish 12/16, Rick Welle 12/16, Betty Meyers 12/17, Jude Miller 12/17 and Kyra Bellrichard.

**Celebrating Anniversaries:** Chuck and Dixie Kolk 12/18 and Randy and Cheryl Herschman 12/21.

## This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee Group
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Advent Midweek Three
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Full Dress Rehearsal Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	4:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program

## **Notes of Information**

**Women's Bible Study:** Women's Sunday night Bible study will meet tonight in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m.

**Christmas Wish List:** There is a list of individuals and families with Christmas needs/wishes from Life By Design-Inc located in the Narthex. If you are willing to fulfill a Christmas wish/need. Please take a card and sign your name on the sheet. Return wrapped gifts clearly labeled with the participant's name to the church office by Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, please contact Laura for details.

**Choir Led Christmas Worship:** Join us next Sunday morning, December 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Choir Led worship service. See flyer for details.

**Children's Christmas Program:** Join our Sunday School kids for their Christmas Program Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 p.m. with a small cookie and coffee reception to follow.

**Trinity First Job Opening:** Trinity First School is looking for mission-focused teachers in the elementary (K-2) and middle school (5-8) levels! Begin immediately or in August for the 2025-2026 school year. If interested, please send your resume to [info@trinityfirst.org](mailto:info@trinityfirst.org) or visit our website at [www.trinityfirstschool.org/employment](http://www.trinityfirstschool.org/employment).

**Women's Coffee Group:** Women's Wednesday Morning Coffee will be meeting on December 18th, at 10:00 in the Youth Room and we are going to have a "Christmas Party!". Dress in your best "Christmas Sweater" and come for fun and food! Any questions contact Beth Gerard.

**Evangelism:** Would you like to learn about outreach? Would you like to learn what it means to reach out into our community and open our doors to our unchurched neighbors? The Board of Evangelism is offering an opportunity to every member of Spirit of Christ to learn what it means for our congregation to be active in our community in meeting the needs of our neighbors. To start learning about outreach we would like you to read the book

Meaningful Outreach: An Essential Guide for Churches by Mark A. Wood. The book is available to read whether you attend the classes or not. The book is being offered early for those who would like to read it, and perhaps re-read it, prior to, and in preparation for the classes. The book is available in the Church Office for \$12 or as an e-book from the Concordia Publishing House website ([www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)). Thank you.

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of boxed sides, including stuffing, pasta and potatoes. They are no longer taking summer clothing items but are looking for new socks and underwear in all sizes and gently used fall/winter children’s clothing. Thank you for your donations. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6689
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973

**Next Week’s Readings**

**Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45**



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Early Candlelight Service – 4 PM

Late Candlelight Service- 9PM

**Christmas Day Service**

Worship Service 9 AM

# Hope is Born

Spirit of Christ

Christmas Choir led

Worship

December 22nd

9 a.m.

Spirit of Christ Church

2749 Bunker Lake Blvd

Ham Lake, MN

[www.soclc.org](http://www.soclc.org)

# The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

C Y V A T A F C H T E B A Z I L E  
I G K O R I H E Z L D U W W O W Q  
G A R B H A I R A H C E Z S G R R  
U B X I P Y T B L E G N A K U D A  
H R J Q G J N C S R L L S O T E M  
L I W Y O O F M O F P U I O Y S O  
M E J S S T Y E C N W V I R S S N  
S L E L O T P H B F A N A A I E S  
V P D O L E R E S S P M Q Y F L X  
H D L Y L I U L W U T Y D O R B D  
R J J A S V P H Q J S B I H B O B  
Z V L T Q W A T M E I E G Y G Y S  
O Y M G T L L E A C I F J F J B S  
K A O L O C Q B T X B Y O J E X U  
S Q O S J H J K X N J N W E C K G  
J E W K P G M M O Q O I S R A E L  
R H T E R A Z A N S Q F M F E E L

SON OF GOD	BETHLEHEM	CHRISTMAS	ELIZABETH
ZECHARIAH	NAZARETH	BLESSED	GABRIEL
SAVIOUR	ISRAEL	JOSEPH	ANGEL
JESUS	MARY	SON	



**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:	<a href="mailto:soclcpastor@gmail.com">soclcpastor@gmail.com</a>
Ministers:	All Members
Music Director John Peterson:	<a href="mailto:carsinger@aol.com">carsinger@aol.com</a>
Office Manager Laura Marquardt:	<a href="mailto:secretary@soclc.org">secretary@soclc.org</a>
Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst):	<a href="mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com">Sd_hurst@yahoo.com</a>