



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 8, 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 Adventide.
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.
G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** A voice cries:
C "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him!"
P John the Baptist names God's expectation:
C "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."
P But we recognize that our lives are crooked, not straight. Our lives do not demonstrate the proper fruit of repentance. And the word of judgment is upon us:
C "The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

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

- P** Merciful Father,
G Have mercy on us.
P Forgiving Lord Jesus,
C Let go of our sin.
P Sanctifying Spirit,
G Make us holy again.

P God promises that as the Messiah comes with his winnowing fork, he burns the chaff of your sinful nature. The Messiah then gathers the wheat into his barn, keeping it for his purposes. You, holy people of God, are that valuable wheat. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sin in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go forth to produce the fruit he intends, proclaiming his goodness to the world he has redeemed.

C Amen! Thanks be to God!

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

Malachi 3:1-4

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of

Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

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 1:59-80

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346

- 1 **When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.**

- 2 **Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,**

**A new Elijah bold,
He testified of him
Of whom the prophets told:**

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.**
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with him
In his eternal day.**

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

C 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.

Savior of the Nation, Come

Bell Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

*ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

**3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

**5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain***

**6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Here, O My Lord, I see Thee Face to Face

LSB 631(tune 917)

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon thee lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.
- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with thee.
- 4 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
Another arm but thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in thy might, thy might alone.
- 5 Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.
- 6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.
- 7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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 suff'rings 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!

O God of God, O Light of Light

LSB 810

- 1** O God of God, O Light of Light,

**O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
To you in heaven's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.**

**2 For deep in prophets' sacred page,
And grand in poets' wingèd word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song, "Goodwill to men!"
Sung once by firstborn sons of light,
It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.**

**3 That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death so steeped in hate and scorn—
These all are past, and now above
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang that host beyond our ken.
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
We lift them up. Amen, amen.**

**4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
And shout his name, his mercies tell!
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.**

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.

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!

Sit

Announcements

Sending

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

Serving in worship today

December 8, 2024

Pastor

Jason Neel

Acolyte

Evan Baker

Usher

Jan Fuerst

Nursery

Leslie Kuntz

Elders

Wayne Chambard

Phil Marquardt

Reader

Robert Pajak

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Peter Welle 12/11, Tim Welle 12/11 and John Riebe 12/12

Celebrating Baptisms: Cheryl Herschman 12/11

Celebrating Anniversaries: Art and Elaine Hayden 12/9

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Elder Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Advent Midweek Two
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour

Notes of Information

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). Thank you.

Youth Bake Sale: The annual youth bake sale will be held **TODAY**. Please come ready to fill your bags with the goodness the youth will be putting together for you. All proceeds from the bake sale will go towards mission projects and this summer's trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

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.

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	\$6689
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<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973
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**Next Week's Readings
Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7**



Please Join us on Wednesday Nights at 6:45 PM for Advent Midweek Service. We will be serving a soup supper at 6:00 PM prior to the service.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Early Candlelight Service – 4 PM

Late Candlelight Service- 9PM

Christmas Day Service

Worship Service 9 AM



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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