





## 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 7, 2025

*Second Sunday of Advent*

### Welcome

#### *Come, Thou Almighty King*

*LSB 905*

**1 Come, Thou almighty King,**

**Help us Thy name to sing;**

**Help us to praise;**

**Father all-glorious,**

**O'er all victorious,**

**Come and reign over us,**

**Ancient of Days.**

**2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,**

**Gird on Thy mighty sword;**

**Our prayer attend.**

**Come and Thy people bless,**

**And give Thy Word success,**

**And let Thy righteousness**

**On us descend.**

**3 Come, holy Comforter,**

**Thy sacred witness bear**

**In this glad hour!**

**Thou, who almighty art,**

**Now rule in ev'ry heart,**

**And ne'er from us depart,**

**Spirit of pow'r.**

4 To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be  
Hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.

*Stand*

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### Confession & Absolution

**P** The voice cries:

**C** “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!”

**P** The Baptist names God’s expectation:

**C** “Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.”

**P** But we recognize that our lives are crooked, not straight. Our rough places are not level. Our lives do not demonstrate the proper fruit of repentance. And the word of judgment is upon us:

**C** “Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**P** We join the crowds whose hearts were spurred by John and the Holy Spirit to ask the question:

**C** “What then shall we do?”

**P** And we find our answer not in the words of John the Baptist but in the words of John the beloved disciple:

**C** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

**P** Merciful Father,

**C** Have mercy on us.

**P** Forgiving Lord Jesus,

**C** Forgive our sin.

**P** Sanctifying Spirit,

**C** Sanctify our lives with your holiness.

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

**P** In the stead and by the command of the Lord who John the Baptist proclaimed, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

## Kyrie

*Spoken*

**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.

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

**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).*

*Sit*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;  
the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Romans 15:4-13*

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed 9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name.”

10 Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;  
let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 3:1-12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

<sup>3</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

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

<sup>4</sup> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax 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.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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

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

*Sit*

***What Hope! An Eden Prophesied***

*LSB 342*

**1 What hope! An Eden prophesied  
Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side,  
Led by a little child!**

**2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,  
A branch from David's line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:  
The fruit of God's design.**

**3 As banner of God's love unfurled,  
Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world  
Would rally to the cross.**

**4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—  
Come, open heaven's door.**

## **Homily**

### **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

*LSB 208*

- 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;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the 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.

### 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 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.*

### 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*

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

*Refrain*

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*

### *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

*LSB 549*

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all.

2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,  
Who from His altar call;  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod  
And crown Him Lord of all.

- 3** Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 4** Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line,  
Whom David Lord did call,   And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine,  
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 5** Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet  
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 6** Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all.
- 7** Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
And crown Him Lord of all.

*Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*

*LSB 540*

- 1** Christ, the Word of God incarnate,  
Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father,  
Perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,  
Light and life You bring to all;

**Light our path with Your own presence,  
Grant us grace to heed Your call.**

- 2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,  
Food for body, food for soul;  
Christ, the manna daily given,  
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.  
Feed us with the food of heaven,  
Foretaste of the feast to be;  
Quench our thirst with living water  
Springing up eternally.**
- 3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant  
From the stump of Jesse's tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches  
To bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior;  
Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard**
- 4 Christ, our good and faithful shepherd,  
Watching all Your lambs and sheep;  
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,  
Never-failing vigil keep.  
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,  
Find us, lift us, bear us home;  
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us;  
Let us hear Your voice alone.**
- 5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing  
To the Father's home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father,  
Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,  
There to share Your wedding feast.**
- 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,  
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection,**

**Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration  
And unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit  
And to You eternally.**

## **Dismissal**

*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.

## ***Rise, Shine, You People***

*LSB 825*

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
Our human story; God in Him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
With grace unbounded.**
- 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
Now are forgiven.**
- 3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,  
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
Of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
His new creation.**

## **Announcements**

## **Sending**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

# **Serving in Worship**

December 7, 2025

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Usher**

Randy Hershman

## **Elders**

Wayne Chambard

Kevin Zimmerman

## **Reader**

Robert Pajak

## **Organist**

Karine Platt

## **Acolytes**

Abby & Nora Weinhold

## **In our prayers:**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Jeff Parson 12/7, Adelynn Baker 12/10, Jason Baker 12/10, Peter Welle 12/11, Tim Welle 12/11, and Jon Riebe 12/12. **Celebrating Baptisms:** Cheryl Herschman 12/11, and JeRay Buerkle 12/12.

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Art & Elaine Hayden 12/9.

### This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Youth Cookie Baking
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Bake Sale
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

### Notes of Information:

**Stewardship Messages:** At Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift ever given—God coming to earth in the flesh to save us from our sins.

*"...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"*  
(Roman's 6:23)

**Silent Auction:** Along with all the cookies NEW this year we will be auctioning off all of the baskets on the table in the narthex. Come buy your baking goodies and perhaps a gift for a loved one.

**2026 calendars:** The 2026 youth calendars are available for purchase in the Narthex or church office. The calendars are \$10.

**Book Club:** Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

There is NO Book Club in December

January 26 - The Women by Kristin Hannah

February 23 - James by Percival Everett

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager.

**Christmas Day Services:** Christmas Day Services will be held at 10:00am this year.

**NACE:** At this time NACE is **NO** Longer taking any clothes at this time. Food needs are canned Fruit, Sides and Peanut Butter. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

**Carl's Movie Minute:**

The Case for Miracles: The latest Lee Strobel documentary explores - you guessed it - Miracles. Are they really real? Dec. 15-18 at Emagine White Bear and AMC Coon Rapids.

David: One for the kid. An animated movie focusing on the story of David. Dec. 19-23 at AMC Mounds View, Emagine White Bear, and East Bethel.

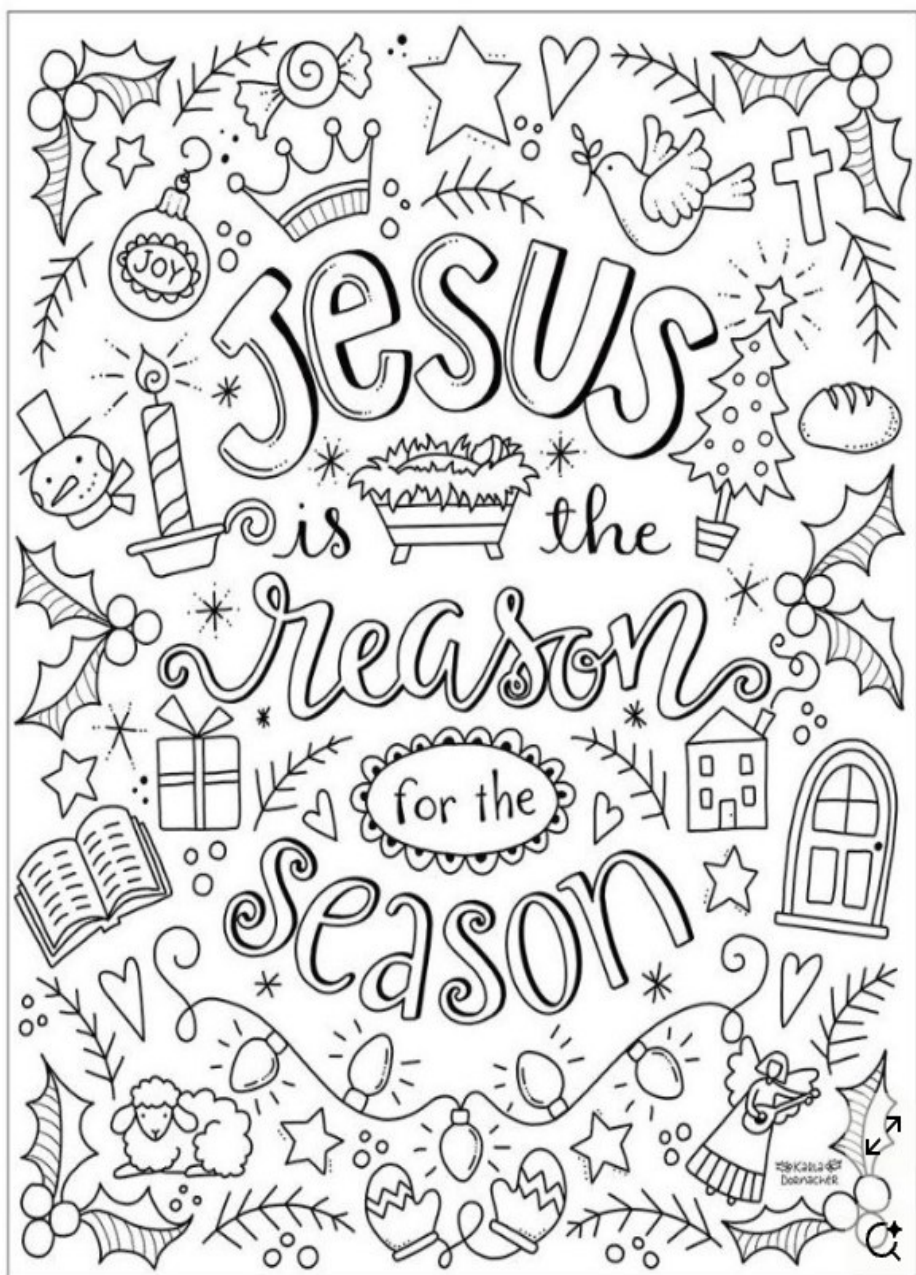
Zero A.D. The story of events around Jesus' birth told as a dark thriller, focusing on the post-birth reactions of Herod and others (and the massacre that followed). Not exactly a light-hearted Christmas movie, however it has a star-studded cast and covers the part of the story we'd prefer to forget but was significant. Opens 12/19 at locations TBD (but likely the usual ones).

Looking forward to '26 at least 9 Christian themed movie ready for '26 release beginning in late January.

<i>Average Weekly Offering</i>	<i>\$6,948</i>
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	<i>\$7,271</i>

**Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11





**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.

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