

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 23, 2018



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" LSB 384 Δ

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P: Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!

C: He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!

P: His flock shall dwell secure.

C: And He will be their peace.

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

P: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Hebrews 10:10

P: In the season of Advent we prepare for Jesus to come. Sometimes in our preparations we lose sight of God's grace. Sometimes we are so desperate for God's approval we think we can earn His favor by doing more, by being better, or by scheming in just the right way. Despite God's unconditional love, we still try to earn our way into security and salvation. We turn to the Lord for forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we confess that we have not trusted Your Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have questioned if we are truly forgiven. We have doubted the new life we now live. We have distrusted Your way of salvation. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: God's ways are not our ways. Despite our continued failures and our inability to trust as we ought, Christ's death and resurrection for our forgiveness remains effective, and it always will. Hear these words of forgiveness for they are from Christ Himself: 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. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all.

INTROIT

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

P: My mouth derides my enemies,

C: because I rejoice in Your salvation.

P: There is none holy like the LORD;

C: there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

P: The barren has borne seven,

C: but she who has many children is forlorn.

P: The LORD kills and brings to life;

C: He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

P: The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

C: He brings low and He exalts.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler

in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And He shall be their peace.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, “Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but a body have You prepared for Me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸ When He said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He added, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–56

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring" *LSB 353*

SERMON

NICIENE 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 Christian 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they may serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

C: and ransom captive Israel.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we would follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

C: who orders all things mightily.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they would live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

C: who gave the Law on Sinai's height.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

C: free us from Satan's tyranny.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

C: and open wide our heav'nly home.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we might befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

C: and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we would enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

C: bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

P: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes to dwell with us as Emmanuel – God with us. By His presence and protection, we are saved from the schemes of Satan. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy King” Tune: *LSB 332*

**Holy, holy, holy King,
Come and visit us, and bring
Love throughout the heav’ns and earth,
As we raise Hosanna’s mirth.**

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit.

Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI "O Lamb of God, You Take Away"Tune: *LSB 357*

**O Lamb of God, You take away
Each sin that leads our hearts astray.
Have mercy on us, great High Priest,**

**And lead us to Your endless feast.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Your love is here, O Israel.**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” **LSB 357**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith as we wait for the day of His coming, that we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” **LSB 336**

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK AT CLC — (12/23/18 – 12/30/18)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am

Monday: Christmas Eve Worship/HC, 4:00pm

Tuesday: Christmas Day Worship/HC, 9:00am

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE (Week ending December 16, 2018)

General & Building Funds: \$8,056.50; Blessings: \$62.77

Attendance: Thursday: 49; Sunday: 148

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship following the service. Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL December 23 or 30.

NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES OR WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 26)

NO THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP THIS THURSDAY (DECEMBER 27)

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICE TIMES: Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00pm; Christmas Day Worship, 9:00am; No worship Thursday, December 27

THE GIVING TREE – Thank you to all who contributed to this year’s Giving Tree collection. A total of \$2455.00 was raised for Noah and his family to help out with their medical bills.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS FOR CHURCH SERVICES / ACTIVITIES: Please check Channel 9 TV’s website, the CLC website or Facebook page, or call the church at 715-848-2040 and press option “6”.

Ladies Guild Human Care for December will be going to the Open Door. Hats and gloves are being collected.

“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life

“Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus’ birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – (www.lutheransforlife.org)*