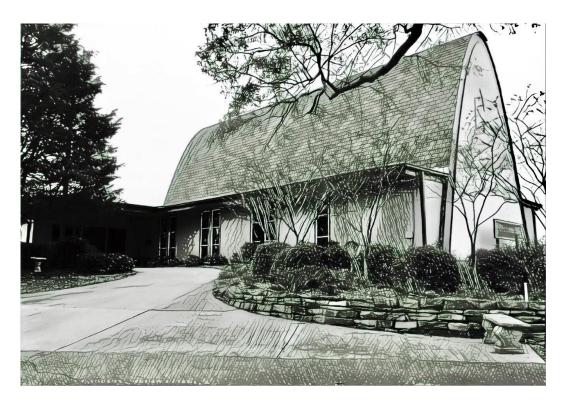
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

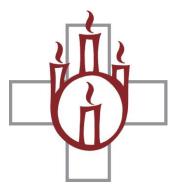




Rev. Dr. James R. Holowach, Pastor Rev. George N. Fields, Pastor Sr. Sara E. Fields, Deaconess Divine Service Each Week with Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages: 9:15 a.m. 4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055 www.christlutheranjacksonms.org

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT + December 19, 2020 +

"I Am the Servant of the Lord"



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today, and pray God's richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

All members and our guests are asked to complete the worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew. Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex. We are so glad to have you worshiping with us today!

LARGE PRINT worship folders are available at the usher stand at the back of the nave.

WELCOME:

The Virgin: When she accepted the suggestion of the serpent, my mother Eve was banished from divine delight. Therefore I fear your greeting, for I take care that I not slip.

The Angel: I am sent as God's messenger to disclose the divine will to you. Why are you afraid of me, undefiled one? I rather am afraid of you! Why do you stand in awe of me, O maiden, who stands in reverent awe of you?

- Theophanes, Canon of Annunciation

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal³. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?

Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?

Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith⁴, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

¹ Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

² Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³ 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE I

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.

OPENING HYMN

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

#342

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **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. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and 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 + the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD



Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,* and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

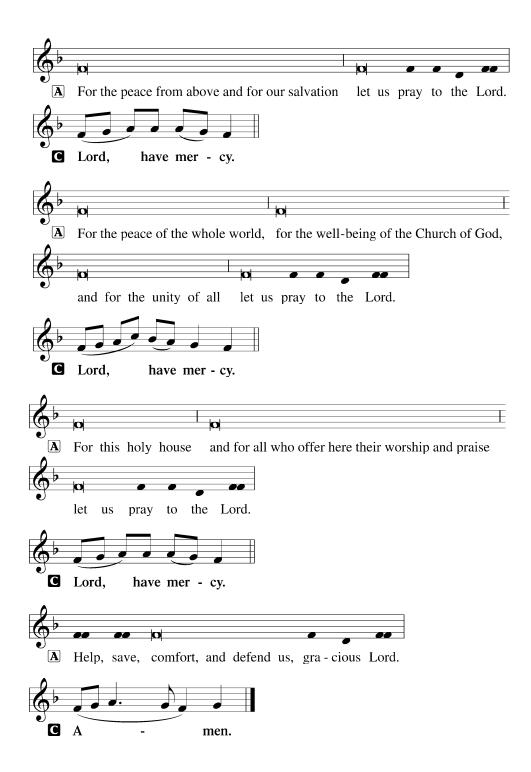
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,* and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

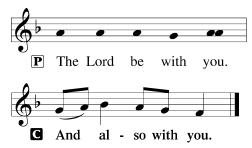
Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.



Mark 10:47



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



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.



Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be

disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



EPISTLE

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Please stand





HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

■ The Holy + Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated

SERMON

Exaltation

Please stand

NICENE CREED

| C I believe in one God, (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4) | | |
|---|--|--|
| the Father Almighty, (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3) | | |
| maker of heaven and earth (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1) | | |
| and of all things visible and invisible. (Col 1:16) | | |
| And in one Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom 10:9) | | |
| the only-begotten Son of God, (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16) | | |
| begotten of His Father before all worlds, (Jn 1:2) | | |
| God of God, Light of Light, (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1) | | |
| very God of very God, (Col 2:9) begotten, not made, (Jn 1:2) | | |
| being of one substance with the Father, (Jn 10:30) | | |
| by whom all things were made; (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3) | | |
| who for us men and for our salvation (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23) | | |
| came down from heaven (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20) | | |
| and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Lk 1:34-35) | | |
| and was made man; (Jn 1:14) | | |
| and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18) | | |
| He suffered and was buried. (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53) | | |
| And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6) | | |
| and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) | | |
| and sits at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7:55) | | |
| And He will come again with glory (Mt 26:64) | | |
| to judge both the living and the dead, (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12) | | |
| whose kingdom will have no end. (2 Pt 1:11) | | |
| And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38) | | |
| the Lord and giver of life, (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6) | | |
| who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (Jn 15:26) | | |
| who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, (Mt 3:16-17) | | |
| who spoke by the prophets. (Eze 11:5) | | |
| And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22) | | |
| I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, (Eph 4:5) | | |

and I look for the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18) and the life + of the world to come. (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

Amen. (Ps 106:48)

Us men means all people. Christian: the ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition of the prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

For comfort, health and recovery: Joan Cowards, Eleanor Koster, Michael Martin, Bobbie Mutter, Elmira Roever;

For those who are ill or distressed: Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Rose Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Richard Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Paula Burkhalter, Bobby Carroll, Arthur Collins, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Michele Rae Fowler, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Elaine Johnson, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, Arlene Kleinschmidt, Eleanor Koster, John Koster, Sandra Landers, Katelyn Lawing, Peggy Lucky, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Lindberg Moore, Jerry Mutter, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Elmira Roever, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sam Schneider, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, MariLyn Unger, Betty Venator, Leonard Watson, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;

For college and graduate students: Jake Everly, Sara Fields, Jonathan Kettler, Roselynn Nelson, Will Nelson;

For military servants and their families: Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, Christopher Martin, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;

For foreign missionaries: especially those serving in Spain;

This week's prayer family: Keeley Tatum and her loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

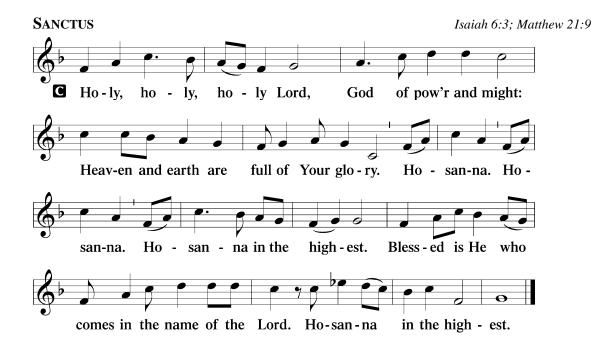


SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



 \mathbf{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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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



Matthew 26:26-28

John 20:19

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

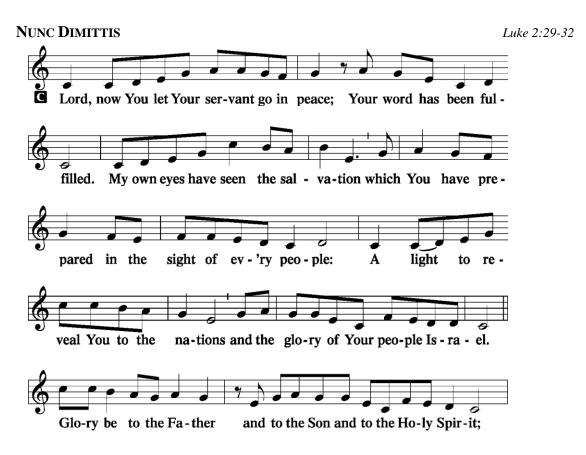
All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to one of the pastors are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to a pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.

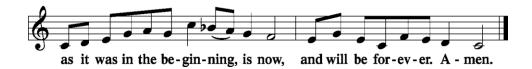
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

#353

Please stand following distribution of communion





POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.



CLOSING HYMN

Away in a Manger

#365

Numbers 6:24-26

Acknowledgments

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Celebrant: Rev. George FieldsLiturgist:
Liturgist:
Cantor: Chris Burkhalter
Interpreter: Denee Smith
Ushers: Allen Goodlett; Jonathan Kettler, Mark Ochs

Liturgist: Rev. James R. Holowach Organist: Sr. Sara Fields Elder: Eric Held

Christmas Day Divine Service: Don't let the Feast of the Nativity pass you by without partaking of *the* Feast – the Lord's Supper! Celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord with us during Divine Service on Christmas Day, **December 25, at 10:30 a.m.**

Farewell Reception: Alas, the day of departure draws nigh - don't let Pastor and Susan leave without saying goodbye! Join us for a dessert reception on **Sunday, December 27**, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Goodletts' house. In order to take safety precautions, we ask that you sign up in the narthex for the hour you plan to attend.

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias: It's not too late! You can still order poinsettias for Christmas! These lovely plants will adorn the sanctuary for Christmas, and then you can take yours home. They are \$15 each, and checks may be made to Christ Lutheran. Thank you!

CLC Christmas Recital: Christmas doesn't *end* on the 25th – it only just begins! Celebrate the Christmas season with us as we make all manner of "joyful noise." Join us at **2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 2,** for the Christ Lutheran Christmas Recital!

Altar Flower Sign-Up: Sign up for the new year! Flowers have a long history of adorning the Lord's altar, and you can help to continue this beautiful tradition! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Readings for next Sunday, December 27th, the First Sunday after Christmas: Introit Ps. 98:1-4; Psalm 111; Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

| Friday | 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Divine Service – The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord |
|--------|------------|--|
| Sunday | 8:00 a.m. | Divine Service (<i>Mask-Only</i>) – The Fourth Sunday in Advent |
| · · | 9:15 a.m. | Children's Sunday School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Divine Service – The Fourth Sunday in Advent |

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: December 21 – December 27



YOUR LIFELINE TO THE LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW...You can listen to in-depth teachings on interesting subjects like:

The Advent Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," Christ's Birth Foretold in Micah, Early Church Fathers on the Birth of Christ, The Christmas Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," Holiday Depression, The New Year Hymn "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year," The Top Religion Stories of 2020, and more...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to what you want when you want at <u>www.issuesetc.org</u>. Simply click on "Listen", choose "On Demand", then select from the vast array of speakers and topics available in the archives.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 Church phone: (601) 366-2055 www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org