# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH





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: 9:00 a.m. 4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055 www.christlutheranjacksonms.org

# THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT + December 3, 2021 +

# "The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness"



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:

"And why should I say more? By means of John's baptism the human being was being purified for repentance, but not advanced to grace. But, by contrast, Christ's baptism regenerates, transforms, and makes a new person out of the old one so effectively that there is no knowledge of the past nor any memory of the things of old in the one who out of his earthly condition has been made heavenly, and already possesses heavenly and divine blessings."

- St. Peter Chrysologus, Sermon 137

# 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 Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, 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 meal<sup>3</sup>. 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 faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 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**

## Prepare the Royal Highway

#343

# **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

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

- 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

### **INTROIT: EXSULTATE DEO**

Psalm 81:8, 10-11, 13; Ant. Luke 3:4b



The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\* "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight."

## Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!\* O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

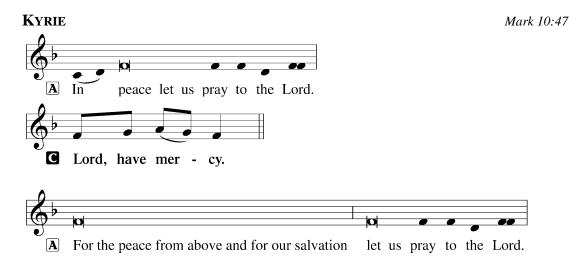
I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.\* Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

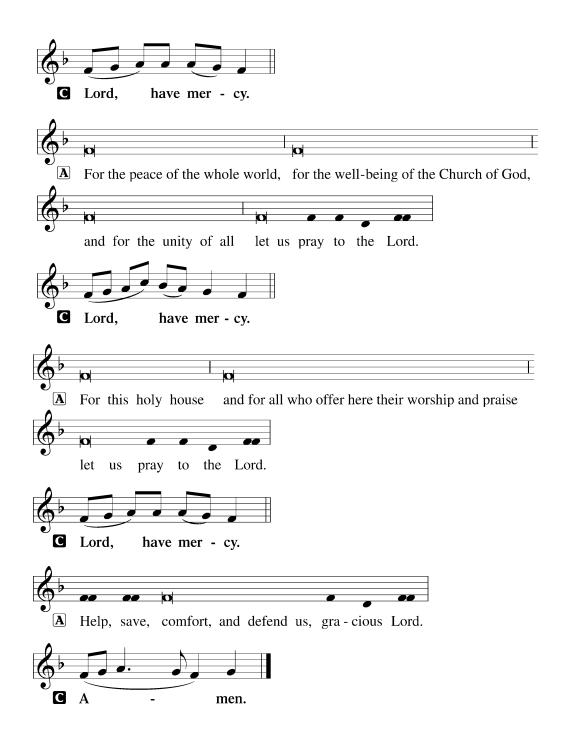
# But my people did not listen | to my voice;\* Israel would not sub- | mit to me.

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,\* that Israel would walk | in my ways!

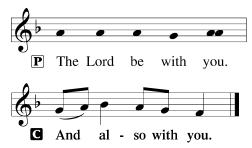
## Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\* "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight."





#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

#### Malachi 3:1-7b

"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' **A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\* Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem. Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\* righteous and having sal- | vation. Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\* From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

#### EPISTLE

GRADUAL

#### Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 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.

Please stand



#### HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-14

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



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. P



Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN	The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns	#348
SERMON	He Is Coming	
Please stand		
NICENE CREED		
<b>C</b> I believe in one Go	<b>Dd</b> , (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)	
	nighty, (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)	
maker of heave	en and earth (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)	
and of all thing	gs visible and invisible. (Col 1:16)	
And in one Lord J	fesus Christ, (Rom 10:9)	
	ten Son of God, (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)	
begotten of His	s Father before all worlds, (Jn 1:2)	
	ight of Light, (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)	
-	ry God, (Col 2:9) begotten, not made, (Jn 1:2)	
e	bstance with the Father, (Jn 10:30)	
•	ings were made; (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)	
	n and for our salvation (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)	
	<b>m heaven</b> (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)	
	nate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Lk 1:34-35)	
and was made		
	ied also for us under Pontius Pilate. (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)	
	<b>d was buried.</b> (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: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

*For comfort, health and recovery:* Lee Elkins, Colin Tate Fairly, Michele (Cookston) Fowler, Layne Herr, Lisa Thompson;

For those who mourn: The family and friends of David Espensen;

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, John Koster, Sandra Landers, Katelyn Lawing, Peggy Lucky, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler; For college and graduate students: Sara Fields, Jonathan Kettler, Roselynn Nelson, Will Nelson;

For military servants and their families: Greg Adams, 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: The Nelson Family and their loved ones.

Please be seated

### OFFERING

Please stand

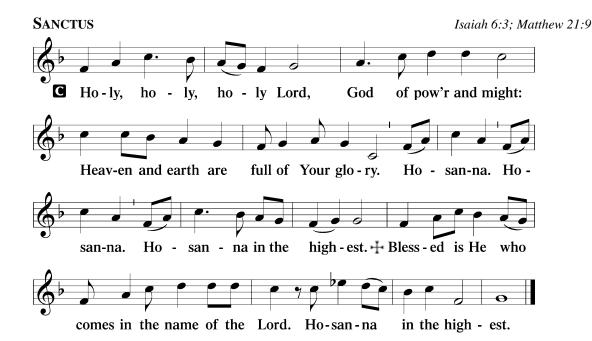


# **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**



 $\mathbf{P}$  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

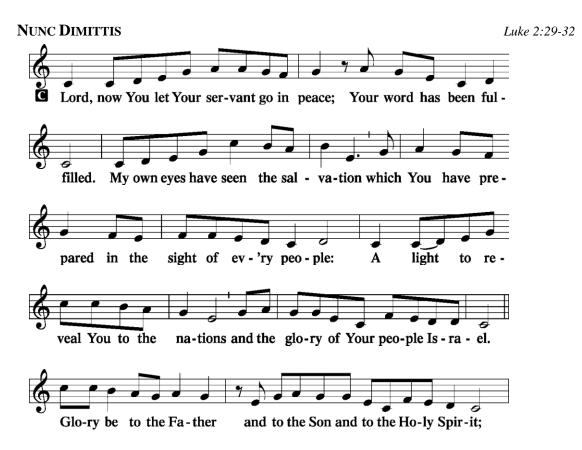
#### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

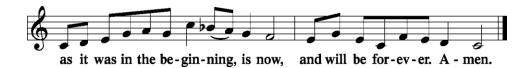
All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail 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**

O Lord How Shall I Meet You	#334
When All the World Was Cursed	#346
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding	#345

Please stand following distribution of communion





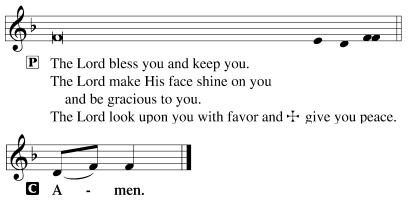
#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness 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**



#344

Numbers 6:24-26

#### Acknowledgments

**CLOSING HYMN** 

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On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Serving Today: Celebrant: Rev. George Fields Acolyte: James Hansford Interpreter: Greg Goldman Greeters: Rush & Allison Agent

Elder: Keith Martin Organist: Sr. Sara Fields Altar Guild: Margaret Haynes

**Voters Meeting:** Please join us for the Voters Meeting **today after the Divine Service**, as we will meet to approve the 2022 Work Plan. Thank you for your faithful attendance to this task!

**Christmas Koinonia:** Don your Santa hats and join us next Sunday at the Burkhalter Home for our annual Christmas Koinonia! Food, festivity, and a round of Unsanctified Santa await!

**Stewpot Collection:** Help to spread the cheer for the many cheerless among us! The Stewpot is collecting non-perishable food items to make Christmas a time of rejoicing for the less fortunate. You can support this charity in bringing your contributions by December 15 (see the donation table in the Fellowship Hall). Thank you!

Advent Vespers: Join us as we meditate upon the Advent of our Lord this coming season. Vespers will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights throughout December until Christmas. Pray with us and ponder our Lord's advent and the mystery of His Incarnation.

**Advent Suppers:** Advent is a season of fasting and preparation, but even fasting Christians must eat once in a while! Join us for Advent suppers each Wednesday (6:00 p.m.) throughout the season as we await the Feast of Christmas! If you would like to contribute, see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

**Work Day:** Roll up your sleeves and 'prepare the Royal Highway Aisleway'! Join us for a work day at **8:30 a.m. this Saturday, December 11**, to spruce up the grounds for the new church year and decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. See you there!

**Christmas Poinsettias:** You can help provide the beautiful plants to be displayed in our sanctuary on Christmas Day! The cost is \$15 per plant. After the service, you may take home the number of plants you purchased. Sign up at the table in the narthex!

**CLC Christmas Recital:** Calling all musicians! It is time to start practicing up, because the Christ Lutheran Christmas Recital is coming on **Saturday, January 8**! If you are interested in participating, email Sister Sara at sistersara@christlutheranjacksonms.org. Additionally, if your piece requires accompaniment, please have music to Sister Sara by Sunday, December 12. All ages and levels are welcome!

**Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols:** We will hold vigil for the birth of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us at 4:30 p.m. to meditate upon this most holy miracle!

**Christmas Day Divine Service:** Celebrate the Holy Nativity with us as we greet our Incarnate Lord on Christmas Day (10:30 a.m.)! See Him present among us upon the altar and partake of Him in Holy Communion.

**Readings for next Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Third Sunday in Advent:** Introit Ps. 146:5-8; Psalm 85; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-35.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: December 6 – December 12

Wednesday6:00 p.m.Advent Supper7:00 p.m.Advent II VespersFriday6:30 a.m.Sunday9:00 a.m.9:00 a.m.Sunday School for All Ages10:30 a.m.Divine Service – The Third Sunday in Advent5:00 p.m.Christmas Koinonia



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

The Advent Hymn "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," Encouragement for Christians in World of Darkness, A Lutheran View of Transgenderism, The Socialist Attack on the Family, Jesus' Transfiguration, and more...

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