

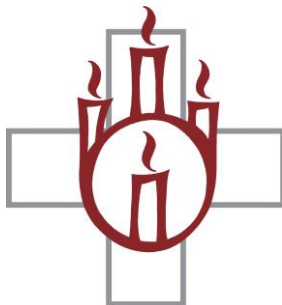
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH EVENSONG IN ADVENT

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+ December 21, 2022 +

The Greatest of These



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

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

WELCOME:

“The measure of love is love without measure.”

—St. Augustine, *Letters*

“The Bible tells us to love our neighbor, and also to love our enemies; probably
because they are generally the same people.”

—G.K. Chesterton, *Illustrated London News*

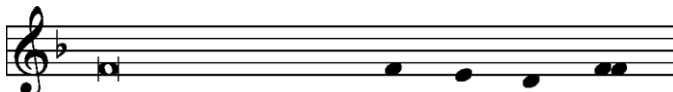
EVENING PRAYER

The congregation may enter in silence for meditation and prayer.

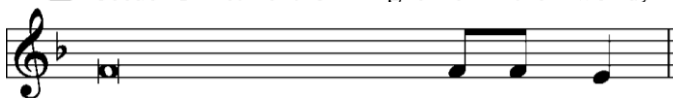
PRESERVICE MUSIC

Please stand as the bell is rung.

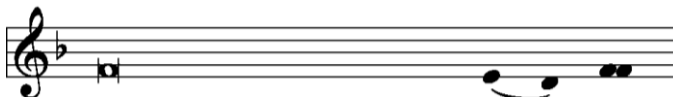
SERVICE OF LIGHT



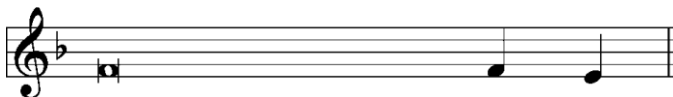
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



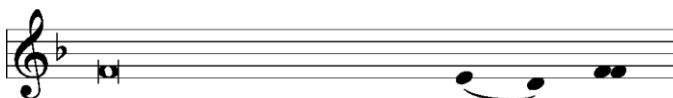
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

PHOS HILARON – The Hymn of Light



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

L Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



C A - men.

PSALM 141



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

COLLECT

L Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His son.**

OFFICE HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

(Tune #861)

Although this hymn is widely loved for its devotional quality, it is often misinterpreted. Rather than being primarily the prayer of a pious singer, it is actually written from the perspective of Christ, praying to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. With that in mind, we as “little Christs,” united to Jesus by baptism, can also pray these words to the Father as His true sons.

- 1 Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
- 2 Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
- 3 Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul’s Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, Great Pow’er of my pow’er.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
- 5 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

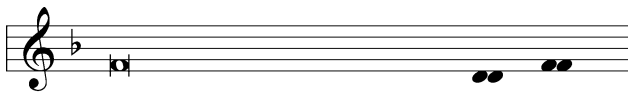
MEDITATION

Love Bears All Things

Please stand

MAGNIFICAT

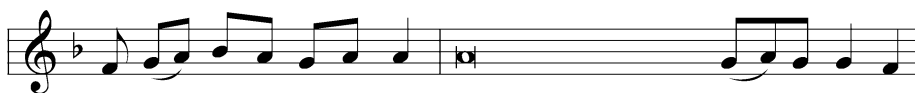
Luke 1:45-55



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.



II For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



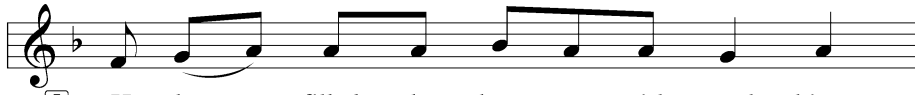
I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



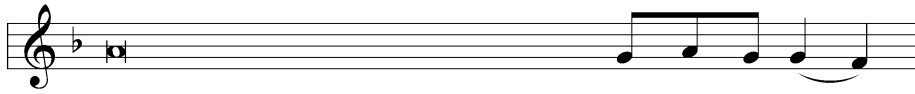
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



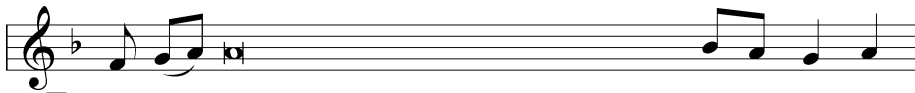
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

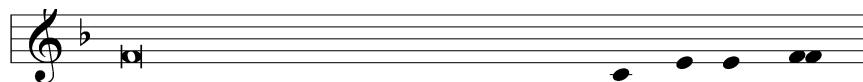
The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation. Repeat for each petition.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

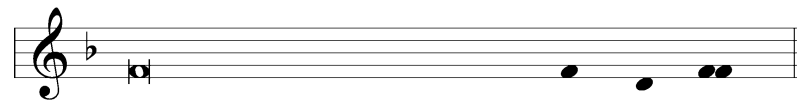
C Lord, have mer - cy.

The prayers then continue (without musical overlap):



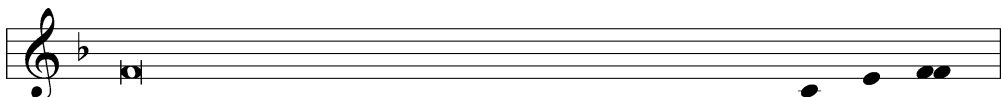
L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains four chords: a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), and a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains four chords: a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F), and a B-flat major triad (B-flat, D, F). The lyrics 'To You, O Lord.' are written below the top staff, with a common time signature 'C' at the beginning.

COLLECT

- L** 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 A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains two notes: a B-flat note and an F note, both followed by a whole rest. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the staff, with a common time signature 'C' at the beginning.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains two notes: a B-flat note and an F note, both followed by a whole rest. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the staff, with a common time signature 'C' at the beginning.

LORD'S PRAYER

L 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.

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Away in a Manger

#365

Acknowledgments

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Serving Tonight

Pastor: Rev. George Fields

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Interpreter: Denee Smith