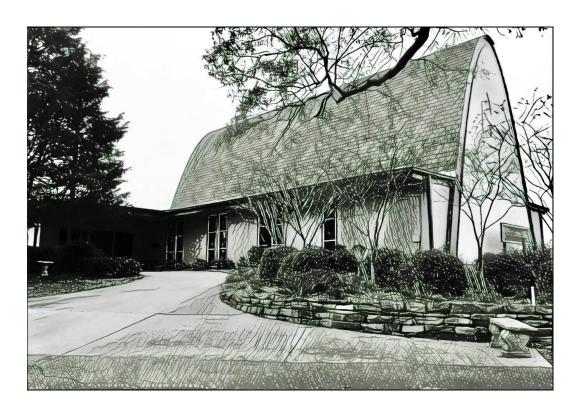
## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH





Rev. George Fields, Pastor Sr. Sara 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 LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR + November 26, 2023 +

## "I Shall Rescue My Flock"



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:

"What more can we desire or look for when God Himself shall be all in all? Oh, that will be as beauty to my sight, honey to my taste, music to my ear, balm to my nostrils, and flowers to my touch. God will then be all in all, and will distribute the blessings of His kingdom to each one according to his heart's desire. If thou desirest life, health, peace, honor, there God will be all and in all to thy soul. What is here dark and mysterious even to the most learned in the Church, will then be plain and clear, even to the smallest children. Christ in His blessed and glorified humanity shall there be present with us, and with sweetest voice shall disclose the hidden mysteries of salvation. Sweet shall be His voice, and comely His countenance; grace is poured into His lips, and He is crowned with glory and honor."

-Johann Gerhard, Sacred Meditations

## 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 III**

#### PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time to pray and meditate.

**OPENING HYMN** 

Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment

**#511** 

#### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### **PSALM: VENITE, EXULTEMUS**

Psalm 95:1-8a



For he is our God,\*

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;\*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;\* let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,\* and a great King a-| bove all gods.

In his hand are the depths | of the earth;\*
the heights of the mountains are his | also.

The sea is his, for he | made it,\* and his hands formed the | dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;\*
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he | is our God,\*

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

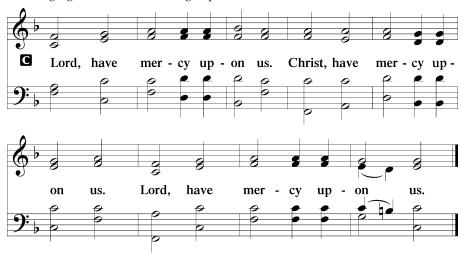
Today, if you | hear his voice,\* do not harden | your hearts.

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.

For he is our God,\* and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

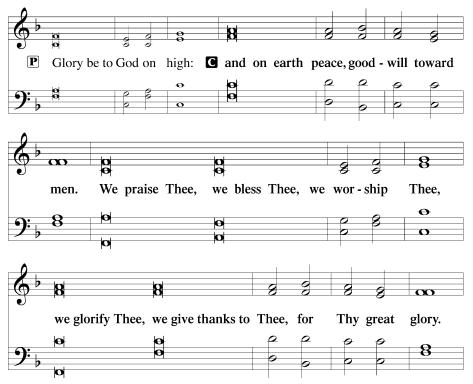
KYRIE Mark 10:47

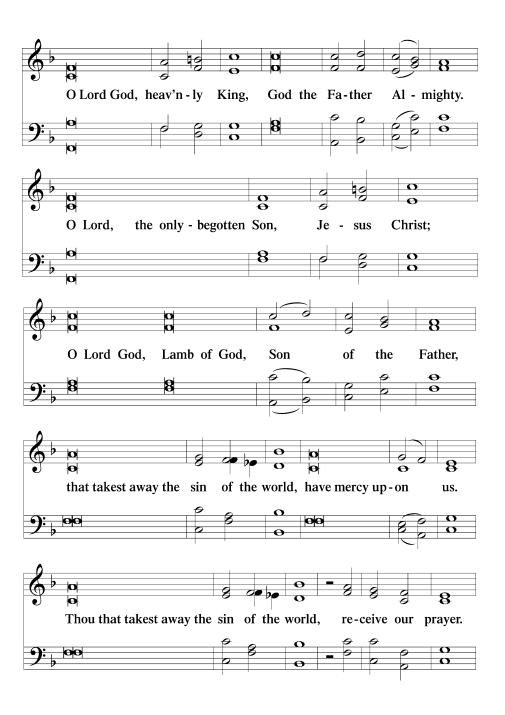
The congregation is invited to sing in parts:

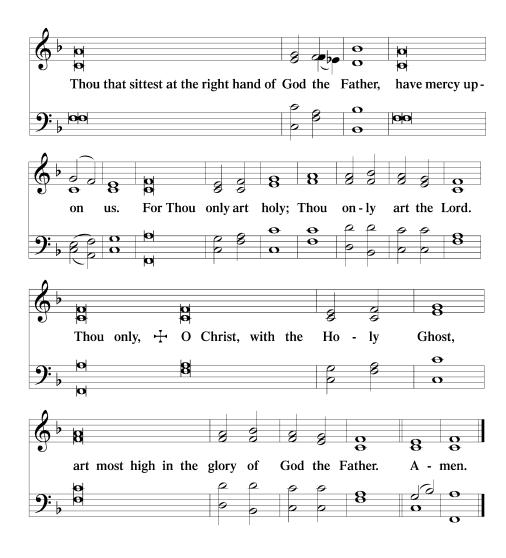


#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

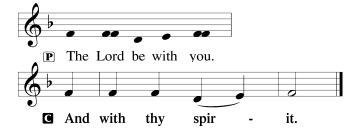
Luke 2:14; John 1:29







#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY





Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

"For thus says the Lord GoD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GoD.

"I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall

feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

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

#### GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b, Psalm 84:5



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,\*

in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

#### EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

Please stand

#### ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

P The Holy 

→ Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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



Please be seated

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)
```

#### 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: Nathan Brown, Sean Fitzgerald, MariLynn Fuhrer, Terry Gassett, Gary Henderson, Kim Hill, Marsha Hobbs, Carmen Hunn, Todd Jardee, Robert Kelly, Anita Martin, Casey Paton, Nathan Richards, Doris Roberts, Gary Stoeckmann, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas;

For those who are ill or distressed: Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Marie Ferderer & Tahlia, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie 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, Will Nelson;

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

For foreign missionaries: especially Rev. Vance & Linda Becker;

This week's prayer family: **The Hansford Family** and their loved ones.

Please be seated

#### **OFFERING**

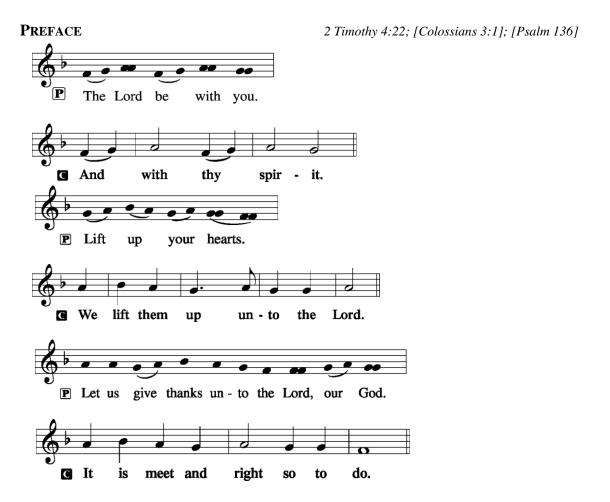
Please stand

**OFFERTORY** Psalm 51:10-12

The congregation is invited to sing in parts:

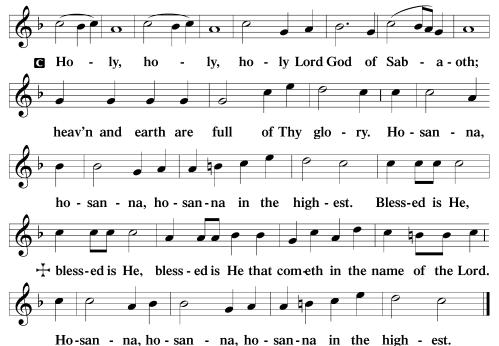


## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



It is truly meet, 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

**P** *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,



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 John 20:19

**P** The peace 

→ of the Lord be with you always.



AGNUS DEI John 1:29

The congregation is invited to sing in parts.





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 Once He Came in Blessing

#333

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

#395

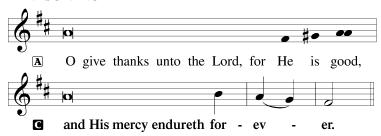
Please stand following distribution of communion

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



#### **THANKSGIVING**

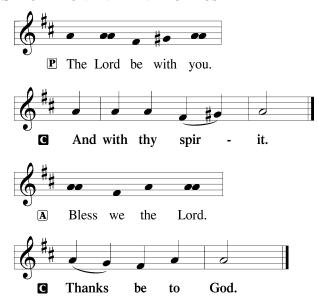


#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

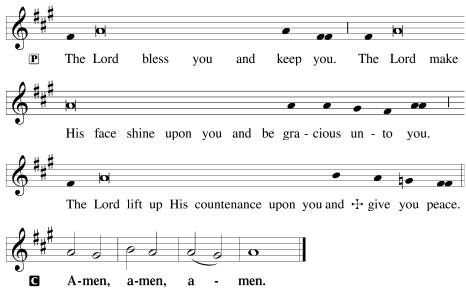
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS



**BENEDICTION**Numbers 6:24–26



#### CLOSING HYMN

#### Joy to the World

#387

Contrary to tradition, "Joy to the World" was originally written not as a Christmas hymn, but as a musical paraphrase of Psalm 98; and its author Isaac Watts gave it the heading "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." Subsequently, many English-speaking Lutherans used the hymn in reference to Christ's Second Coming!

Notably, references to the birth of Christ are absent; rather, the hymn speaks about Jesus' triumphant reign in His kingdom, with sin and sorrow banished from the earth. Although this hymn could easily be used (and is!) to herald our Lord's first advent at Christmas, we use it today, on this Last Sunday of the Church Year, to rejoice in His second advent: His coming at the end of the age.

#### Acknowledgments

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#### **Today's Worship Servants:**

Celebrant: Rev. George FieldsElder: Gary AtchleyAcolyte: Nathan HansfordOrganist: Sr. Sara FieldsInterpreter: Denee SmithCantor: Christa Kettler

Altar Guild: Michelle Miller & Nancy Teal

**Voters Meeting:** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 3**, as we will meet to approve the 2024 Work Plan. The meeting will follow the Divine Service.

**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 (beginning Dec. 6). Pray with us and ponder the coming of our Lord and the mystery of His Incarnation.

**Advent Dinners:** Join us for our soup-salad-sandwich suppers at six! Throughout Advent, we will dine together at **6:00 p.m. before the Wednesday** evening services. To contribute food, sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Come for food and fellowship during this season of great anticipation as we prepare for the Advent of our King!

**December Work Day:** Prepare the <del>royal highway</del> *church grounds* for the Advent season! Join us at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9**<sup>th</sup>, as we spruce up the grounds with an outdoor work day! Coffee and spontaneous caroling might occur...

**Decoration Day:** Untangle the Christmas lights and unwrap the chrismons—it's almost time to put up a tree! If sweating outdoors at the work day isn't your thing, join us *indoors* at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, for our annual Advent Decoration Day. There will be coffee, there will be cookies, and there will be lots of Christm-I mean, *Advent* cheer!

**CLC Christmas Recital:** Calling all musicians! It is time to start practicing up, because the Christ Lutheran Christmas Recital is coming on **Saturday, January 6**. If you are interested in participating, email Sister Sara at sistersara@christlutheranjacksonms.org. All ages, levels, and varieties of instruments are welcome!

**Readings for next Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the First Sunday in Advent:** Introit Ps. 25:1-3, Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 11:1-10.

#### This week at Christ Lutheran Church: November 27 – December 3

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal

**Friday 6:30 a.m.** Bible & Breaky

**Sunday** 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Divine Service – The First Sunday in Advent

11:30 a.m. Voters Meeting



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

Forgiving Those Who Sin Against Us, The Parable of the Ten Virgins, Transhumanism, 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 <a href="www.issuesetc.org">www.issuesetc.org</a>. 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