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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT + December 3, 2023 +

We Are All Your People



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:

"If you examine this whole passage of Scripture from the inquiry of the disciples down to the parable of the fig tree, you will find that it makes sense at every point in connection with the coming of the Son of Man. He will bring both sorrow and joy. The Son of Man is coming in the midst of both calamity and promises, both the grief of nations and the longing of the saints. He is the common element of both. He who is common to both will end the one by inflicting judgment on the nations, and will commence the other by fulfilling the longings of the saints."

-Tertullian, Against Marcion

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.

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

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

³1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE I

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.

Please stand

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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.
- Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- **C** Amen.
- The Lord Almighty, the Father, the + Son and of the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in His Church throughout this holy season of Advent.
- **C** Amen.

Please be seated

OPENING HYMN

The Night Will Soon Be Ending

#337

Please stand

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

- **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

PSALM: QUI REGIS ISRÆL

Psalm 80:1-7; Ant. Psalm 80:7



Restore us, O | God of hosts;* let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!* You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,* stir up your might and come to | save us!

Restore us, | O God;* let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

O LORD | God of hosts,*

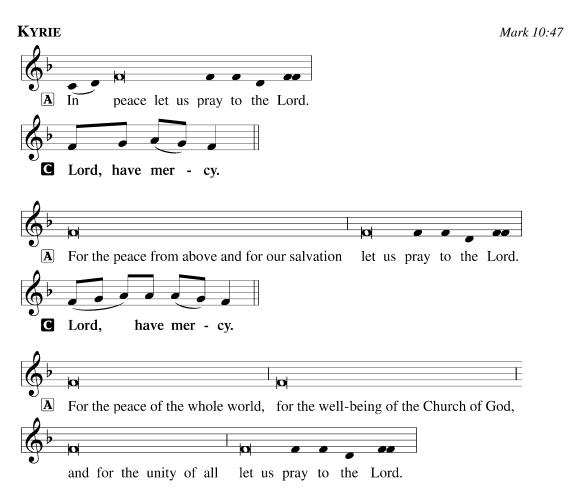
how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?

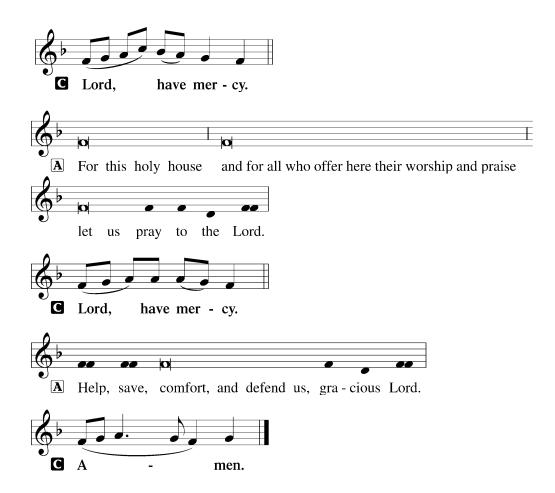
You have fed them with the | bread of tears* and given them tears to drink in full | measure. You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,* and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;* let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

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.

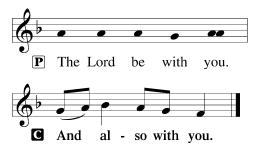
Restore us, O | God of hosts;* let your face shine, that we | may be saved!





During Advent, which is a season of preparation and repentance, we omit the Gloria in Excelsis.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boilto make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf. and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 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

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Please stand



HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

■ The Holy + Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.



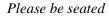
[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





SERMON

Stay Awake

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: Lord, in Your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

For comfort, health, and recovery: Nathan Brown, Sean Fitzgerald, Terry Gassett, Gary Henderson, Kim Hill, Carmen Hunn, Todd Jardee, Robert Kelly, Anita Martin, Casey Paton, Nathan Richards, Doris Roberts, Gary Stoeckmann, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas, Nikki Vines;

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: Chuck & Margaret Haynes and their loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

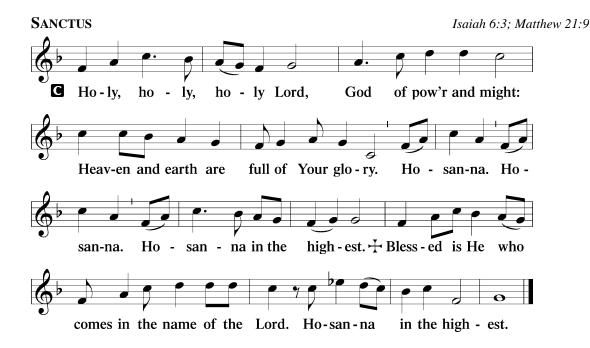


SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



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

▶ 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:



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

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 ⅓ us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

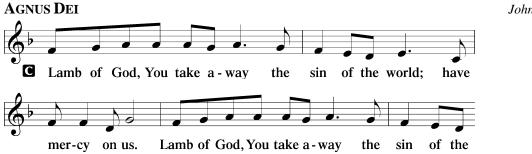
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ∔ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

 \mathbf{P} The peace $\mathbf{+}$ of the Lord be with you always.

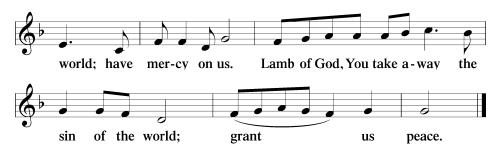




Matthew 26:26-28

John 20:19

John 1:29



Please be seated

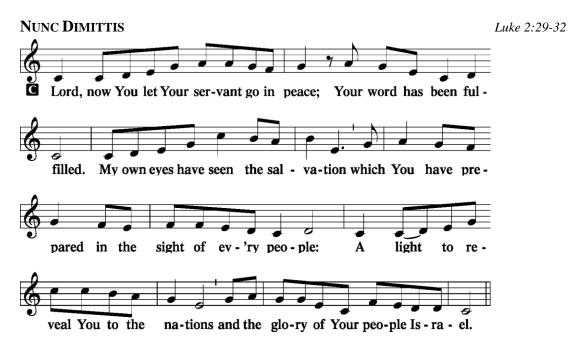
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

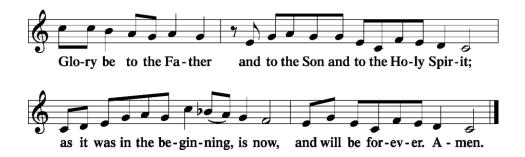
All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail 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
Creator of the Stars of Night	#351

Please stand following distribution of communion





POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

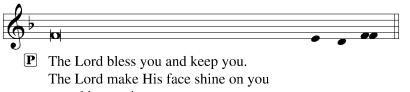
A Let us pray.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26



BENEDICTION



and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns #348

Acknowledgments

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Elder: Glen Hansford Organist: Sister Sara Fields Cantor: Rush Agent

Voters Meeting: Join us today 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!

A Very Merry Communio Christmas! It may be Advent, but Communio Christmas is almost here! Don your Santa hats and join us next Sunday at the Held Home for our annual Communio Christmas. Email sistersara@christlutheranjacksonms.org for more details. Food, festivity, and a round of Unsanctified Santa await!

December Work Day: Prepare the royal highway *church grounds* for the Advent season! Join us at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16th, 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 16th**, 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!

Behold, a new [Christmas] thing: This year, Christmas falls on a Monday... which means Christmas Eve is a *Sunday*, the same day as Advent IV! Although we are well seasoned from our rigorous Holy Weeks to handle three services in a 24-hour period, we are going to seize this year's unique opportunity to try a new [but ancient] thing: Midnight Mass! Our regular Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Day service will be experienced in one glorious Divine Service at **10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve**. Children are welcome to come in jammies (and grown-ups are advised to grab a cup of coffee!). Join us for this festive celebration of our Lord's Incarnation!

Readings for next Sunday, December 10th, the Second Sunday of 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: December 4 – December 10

Tuesday	6:15 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	y 6:00 p.m.	Advent Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent I Vespers
	8:00 p.m.	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 Second Sunday in Advent
	5:00 p.m.	Communio Christmas

Issues, Etc. Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

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

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON... "Savior of the Nations, Come," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," 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