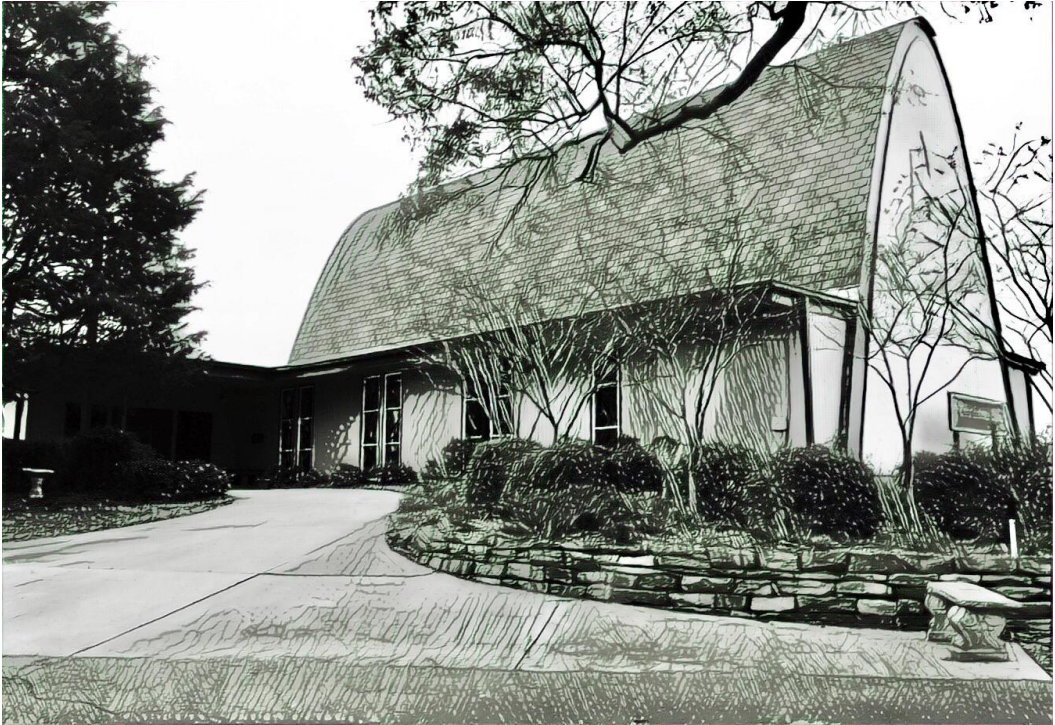


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
+ December 17, 2023 +

For I, the Lord, Love Justice



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 worshipping with us today!*

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

WELCOME:

“John is like sound, who in relation to Christ, who is speech.”

—Origen, *Commentary of the Gospel of John*

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.

OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

#354

Please stand

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 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: BENEDIXISTI, DOMINE

Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13; Ant. Psalm 85:7



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back
to | folly.**

**Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.**

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

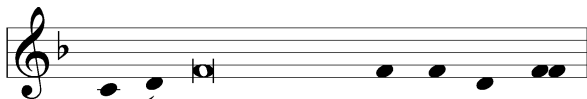
Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

KYRIE

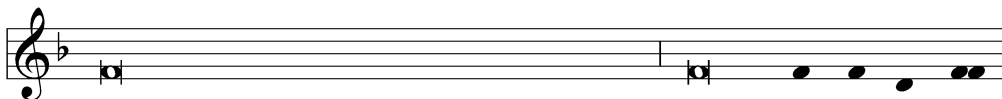
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



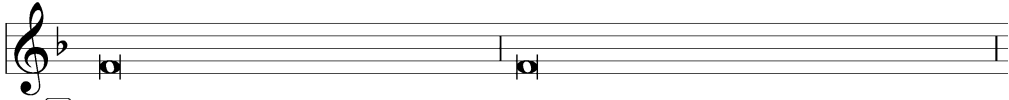
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



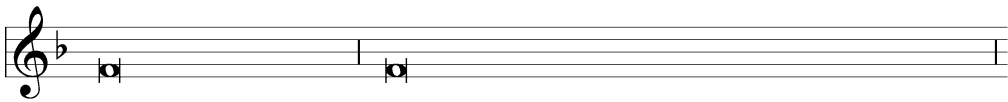
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



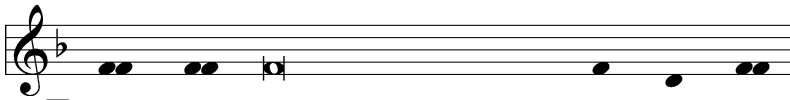
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN

When All the World Was Cursed

#346

SERMON

The Name Wronged

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: **Dennis Christensen, Kathleen Crews, Barbara Glenn, Gary Henderson, Kim Hill, Carmen Hunn, James Junkans, Anita Martin, Judy Monroe, 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: **Terry Hubmann** and his loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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



P The Lord be with you.



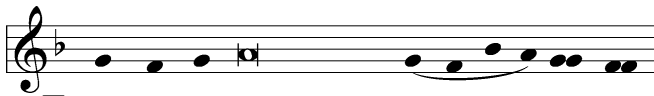
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. ✠ Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

P 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

Matthew 26:26-28

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.



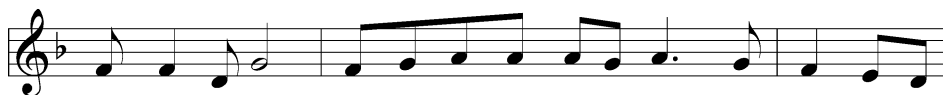
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray | #623 |
| O God of Love, O King of Peace | #751 |
| Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring | #353 |

Please stand following distribution of communion

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

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.

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.

C A - men.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P 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.

C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

#398

Acknowledgments

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Serving Today:

Celebrant: Rev. George Fields

Cantor: James Hansford

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Elder: Glen Hansford

Organist: Sister Sara Fields

Altar Guild: Margaret Haynes

Thank You! Many thanks to all who rolled up their sleeves yesterday to spruce up the grounds and decorate for Christmas!

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 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!

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@christlutheranjaxsonms.org; additionally, if your piece requires accompaniment, please have music to Sister Sara by **Sunday, December 24.** All ages and levels are welcome!

Christmas Poinsettias: You can help provide the beautiful plants to be displayed in our sanctuary on Christmas Day! The cost is \$18 per plant. After the service, you may take home the number of plants you purchased. Sign up at the table in the narthex!

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 24th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Introit Ps. 19:1-6; Psalm 89:1-5; 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: December 18 – December 24

Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Advent Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent III 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent
	10:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass – The Feast of the Nativity



Issues, Etc.[™]

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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