



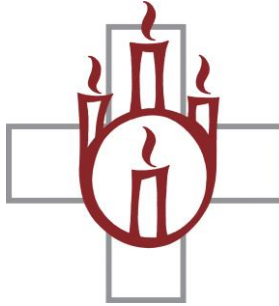
# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD VESPERS IN ADVENT

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+ December 20, 2023 +

*According to Your Word: The Nunc Dimittis*



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:

“As then thou art sensible that death is to be expected at any time, let it continually be in thy mind. We always carry about with us our sins, why not then carry about with us constantly the thought of death, for ‘the wages of sin is death’? If thou wouldst escape the bitterness of death, then observe Christ’s saying. Faith unites us to Christ, and if we are in Christ we shall not die, for Christ Himself is our life. ‘He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit’ with Him, and thus the faithful soul shall not die eternally, because the eternal God himself is its life [...] And so death to the godly is really the beginning of their true life and the open door into the glories of Paradise.”

— Johann Gerhard, *Sacred Meditations*, “The Daily Consideration of Death”

*Please stand as the bell is rung.*

## OPENING VERSICLES

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## PSALM

*Psalm 85*



LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.  
You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.

**You withdrew | all your wrath;\*  
you turned from your hot | anger.  
Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,\*  
and put away your indignation | toward us!**

Will you be angry with us for- | ever?\*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

Will you not revive | us again,\*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?

**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.

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

**Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,\*  
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST READING**

*Malachi 2:10—3:1*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING**

*Luke 2:22-32*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**ADVENT RESPONSORY**

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**OFFICE HYMN**

**Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace**

**(Tune #342)**

1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.

2 This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.

△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;  
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.

**MEDITATION**

*Consolation*

*Please stand*

**MAGNIFICAT**

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**KYRIE**

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**LORD'S PRAYER**

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**COLLECTS**

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**BENEDICAMUS**

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**BENEDICTION**

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**CLOSING HYMN**

**Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart**

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**Acknowledgments**

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