

CHRIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Divine Service

The Third Sunday in Advent

✠ December 14, 2025 ✠

“Behold Your God”

“If someone proved to me that Christ is outside the truth and that in reality the truth were outside of Christ, then I should prefer to remain with Christ rather than with the truth.”

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

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.

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 to pray and meditate

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

Opening Hymn	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	#341
Confession & Absolution		p. 151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

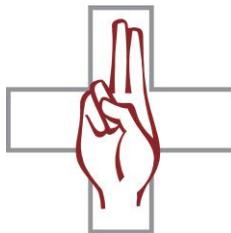
Introit		<i>see page 5</i>
Kyrie		p. 152

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

Salutation & Collect		p. 156
Old Testament Reading		Isaiah 35:1-10
Gradual		<i>see page 5</i>
Epistle		James 5:7-11
Alleluia		p. 156
Holy Gospel		Matthew 11:2-15
Office Hymn	The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns	#348
Sermon	<i>The Gospel</i>	
Nicene Creed		p. 158
Prayer of the Church		p. 159
Offering		
Offertory		p. 159

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface	p. 160
Sanctus	p. 161
Prayer of Thanksgiving	p. 161
Lord's Prayer	#957 (<i>see page 6</i>)
The Words of Our Lord	p. 162
Pax Domini	p. 163
Agnus Dei	p. 163
Distribution Hymns	
Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor	#534
O Jesus, King Most Wonderful	#554
Once He Came in Blessing	#333
Nunc Dimittis	p. 165
Post-Communion Collect	p. 166
Benediction	p. 166
Closing Hymn	O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide #355



INTROIT: IN TE, DOMINE, SPERAVI

Psalm 71:14-18; Ant. Philippians 4:4



Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

I will hope con- | tinually*
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to
come.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

#957

Matthew 6:9-13



IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For comfort, health, and recovery:

Jessica Barber, Christy Chapman, Jana Entrekin, Jennifer Haggard, Angelia Hall, Jim Hansford, Joseph Holleman, Elaine Johnson, Betty Reed, Eloise Springer, Angie Standish, Nicole Tatum, Lee Vanlandingham, Crystal Weidner

For those who mourn:

The family and friends of **Keith Herrington**

For those who are ill or distressed:

Jenalee Adams, Blair Alford, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Wayne Burt, Bobby Carroll, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Tahlia Ferderer, George Fields, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Tim Hansen, Faye Hartman, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, April Ann Hubmann, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Pippin Family, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Eloise Springer, Gary Stoeckmann, Dana Taquino, Lesley Tatum, Nicole Tatum, Donny Thomas, Nikki Vines, Leonard Watson, Cynthia Widlitze, Barbara Zeigler

For college and graduate students:

Sara Fields, James Hansford

For military servants and their families:

Glen Hansford, James Hansford, Bill Nelson, Steven Tatum

This week's prayer family:

Cecelia Dorsey and her loved ones

Serving Today:

Pastor: Rev. George Fields

Acolyte: William Hansford

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Elder: Keith Martin

Organist: Sister Sara Fields

Altar Guild: Margaret Haynes

Voters Meeting: Kindly stay for a voters meeting directly after this morning's Divine Service, as we will meet to approve the 2026 budget. Thank you for faithfully attending to this task!

Thank you! To all who helped with Decoration Day yesterday, thank you! The church looks beautiful!

Advent Evensong: Join us for our last evensong of Advent as we meditate upon the canticles of the Incarnation. Evensong will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday night. Pray with us and ponder our Lord's advent and the mystery of His Incarnation.

Advent Suppers: Our last Advent supper is nigh upon us! Join us for our final "soup-salad-sandwich supper at six" this Wednesday (6:00 p.m.). If you would like to contribute, see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

A Very Merry Communio Christmas! It may be Advent, but Communio Christmas is here! Don your Santa hats and join us at the Hansford home tonight at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Communio Christmas. Bring your favorite festive dish to pass and a gift for the game (\$25 limit). Food, festivity, and a round of Unsanctified Santa await!

Fond Farewell: Dearest Denee Smith, our long-time sign language interpreter, is retiring from serving Christ Lutheran **next Sunday, December 21st**. Amidst our deep sadness in seeing her go, let us not let her leave without fanfare and outpouring of gratitude! We will celebrate her service and send her off with **a reception after the Divine Service on the 21st**. Please join us as we thank God for the wondrous gift He has given us in Denee.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-laaaaaaa! Christmas is not complete without caroling! Join us **next Sunday, December 21st**, as we spread the merry, Christological cheer. We shall meet at Newk's at 5 p.m. (4450 I 55 N, Jackson, MS 39211) for dinner and begin caroling at several nursing homes at 6 p.m. Caroling books will be provided.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols: We will hold vigil for the birth of our Lord on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th. Join us at 6:00 p.m. to meditate upon this most holy miracle!

Christmas Day Divine Service: Celebrate the Holy Nativity with us as we greet our Incarnate Lord on Christmas Day (10:30 a.m.)! See Him present among us upon the altar and partake of Him in Holy Communion.

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

CLC Christmas Recital: Calling all musicians! It is time to start practicing up, because the Christ Lutheran Christmas Recital is coming on **Saturday, January 3!** If you are interested in participating, email Sister Sara at sistersara@christlutheran.jacksonms.org. All ages and levels are welcome!

Readings for next Sunday, December 21st, the Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Introit 130:5-8; Psalm 24; Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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This week at Christ Lutheran Church: December 12 – December 18

Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Advent Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Evensong
	7:35 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
	5:00 p.m.	Dinner & Caroling



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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles (and/or evergreen branches) that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent. Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many beautiful things you'll see around the church during Advent.



How do we use the advent wreath?

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in the church sanctuary. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!



Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, allow your children to walk up to get a better look at the Advent wreath. Remind them to be reverent in God's holy places. During this Advent season, try utilizing an Advent wreath at home with family devotions. If you are unsure how to get started, ask your pastor for help.



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