

**4th Sunday in Advent**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*December 24, 2023*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

Oh come, oh come Immanuel. So the Church has prayed and sung through the generations. We wake every day in hope that today is the day our Lord will return and gather his people into their eternal rest. We rejoice that he already has come in the flesh to redeem us. In these last hours before our Christmas celebrations, we pray that Christ will be with us through Word and Sacrament: “Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.”

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***The Common Service***

*The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God’s service to us (the German, “Gottesdienst,” “The Divine Service”). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God’s work. He gives, we receive.*

**HYMN** *Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel* **| CW 23**

**INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*From God’s Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).*

*God has put His name —Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the Invocation, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord’s name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done “when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it” (Matthew 28:18-20).*

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

** Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C:  Glory be to God on high,**

 **and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

 **We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,**

 **We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory.**

 **O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.**

 **O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

 **O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

 **You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

 **You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.**

 **You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.**

 **For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.**

 **You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

 **Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *2 Samuel 7:8–16*

*The Lord promised to David that his son would build God’s house. But God promised to build David’s house, throne, and kingdom so that they last forever.*

**8**“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. **9**I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. **10**And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning **11**and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: **12**When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. **13**He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14**I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. **15**But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

**PSALM** *Psalm 89, page 98*

**SECOND LESSON** *Romans 16:25-27*

*The mystery long hidden has been revealed and made known.*

**25**Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, **26**but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— **27**to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Matthew 1:23*

**Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Luke 1:26–38*

*“May your word to me be fulfilled.” The hope of every believer before and the joy for which we long: that God would keep his promises. He has come in the flesh, he is coming through Word and Sacrament. He will come again!*

**26**In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27**to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28**The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

**29**Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30**But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

**34**“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

**35**The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36**Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37**For no word from God will ever fail.”

**38**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

 **maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

 **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

 **born of the Virgin Mary,**

 **suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

 **was crucified, died, and was buried.**

 **He descended into hell.**

 **The third day he rose again from the dead.**

 **He ascended into heaven**

 **and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

 **From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

 **the holy Christian Church,**

 **the communion of saints,**

 **the forgiveness of sins,**

 **the resurrection of the body,**

 **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Savior of the Nations, Come***| CW 2**

**SERMON** *Luke 1*

**OFFERTORY**

**C:  Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

 **And renew a right spirit within me.**

 **Cast me not away from your presence**

 **And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

 **Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,**

 **And uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*The great O Antiphon of Advent has been prayed and sung by the Christian Church since at least the ninth century, if not since the days of Gregory the Great (sixth century). Each consists in a title given to our Savior in the Old Testament, followed by a petition that he come and fulfill a promise or prophecy. The first letters of the seven most common petitions form in Latin the phrase,* ero cras*, “I will come tomorrow.”*

M: Let us pray with the Church of God throughout the world and throughout time.

 Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

**C: Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.**

M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai; come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.**

M: O root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage; come quickly to deliver us.

**C: Oh, come, o Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save, bring them in victory through the grave.**

M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

**C: Oh, come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

**C: Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows out to flight**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**C: Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease and be yourself the king of Peace.**

*Special intercessions may follow*

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

**C: Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name,**

 **your kingdom come,**

 **your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

 **Give us today our daily bread;**

 **and forgive us our sins,**

 **as we forgive those**

 **who sin against us;**

 **and lead us not into temptation,**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

 **For the kingdom, the power,**

 **and the glory are yours**

 **now and forever. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Let All Together Praise Our God***| CW 41**

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Pastor Timothy Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*