



4th Sunday of Advent

Your King Comes

December 20, 2020

THE ADVENT WREATH

The traditional Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree also has a long history of religious use, and no doubt the idea of an Advent Wreath was inspired by the fir tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. In modern use, including our own chancel, Advent wreaths have been adapted, often as a modern form of liturgical art. Eventually, the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world

ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We are celebrating that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is worth observing that it is a peculiar tradition of the church to begin a new year at the time of Advent—at the end of November or early December. This differs from all other accounts of how we measure time whatsoever. The reason for this is because the Church is counter-cultural. She does not number her days or measure her seasons so much by the motion of the sun as by the course of our Savior’s life, beginning and counting her year with Him at the center. So, as the days become darker, and the night becomes longer, the true Sun of Righteousness begins to rise upon the world to enlighten those who sit in spiritual darkness.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What’s the best way to prepare for his coming? It’s not with frantic doing. It’s not with a focus on what we have done or promise to do. It’s not with how we will pay back what he comes to bring. The best preparation for Christmas is a readiness to receive.

The Service of the Word and Sacrament



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," "God/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

41 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,

C: **we lie and do not practice the truth.**

M: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

C: **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6,7)**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

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.**

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**

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).

The shorter repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary.
He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

ADVENT HYMN

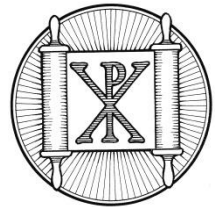
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | CW 23

During the hymn, four Advent candles are lit.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 7:1–11, 16

God reminds King David that he took him from the flocks of sheep and made him a great king. God also promises that he will set up a lasting kingdom for David and the people of Israel. Although David would not build a house for the Lord, the Lord would build a house for him—an everlasting kingdom on whose throne King Jesus would sit.

⁷ When the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, “Look, I am living in a cedar house while the ark of God sits inside tent curtains.”

³ So Nathan told the king, “Go and do all that is on your mind, for the LORD is with you.”

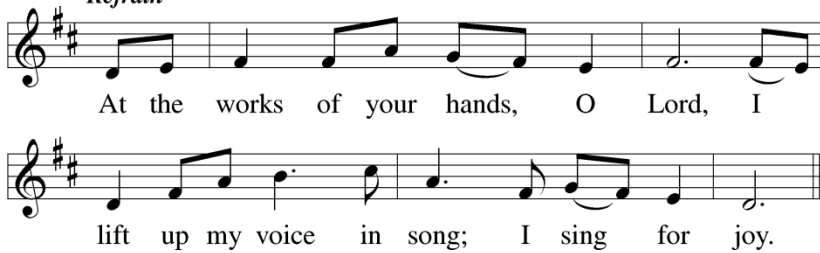
⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ “Go to my servant David and say, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ From the time I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until today I have not dwelt in a house; instead, I have been moving around with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever spoken a word to one of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, asking: Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?’

⁸ “So now this is what you are to say to my servant David: ‘This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a great name for you like that of the greatest on the earth. ¹⁰ I will designate a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they have done ¹¹ ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. ¹⁶ Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.’”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 89 (p.98)

Refrain



Psalm tone



I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,

who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;

they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25–27

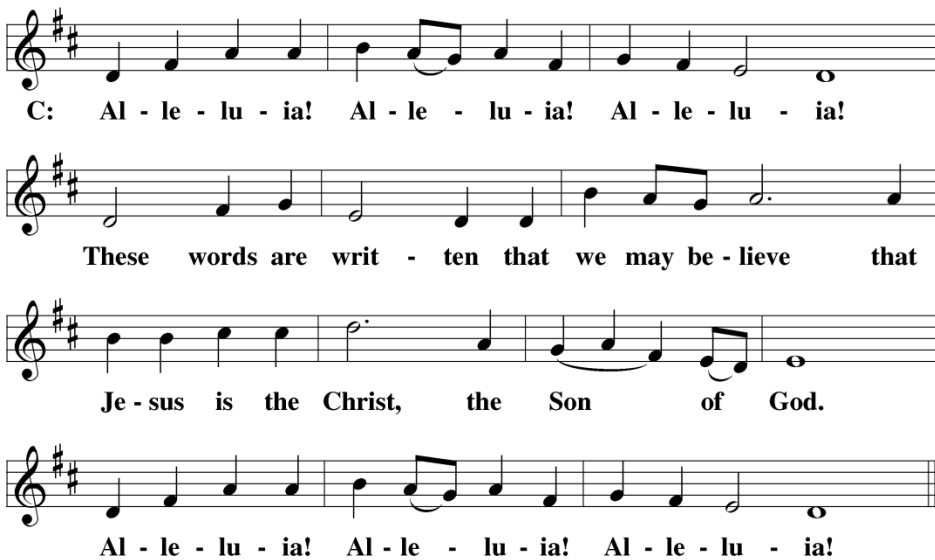
Paul praises God, who revealed Jesus Christ as the Savior that all might believe. The gospel message is “the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed.” This is God’s gift to you.

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation about Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept silent for long ages ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God to advance the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ—to him be the glory forever! ^[a] Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23

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



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

Luther notes that the Virgin Mother of God received the message of the Incarnation with a simple, Yes! She did not shave her head and enter a convent. She did not set herself up on a throne to be worshiped. She did nothing but receive. She did not pretend to grasp all that the angel said or its full implication. All she knew

was that the message came from God, and that whatever he was about to give—even his only begotten Son!—she was ready to receive.

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged ^[a] to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ^[b] ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" ^[c]

³⁵ The angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸ "See, I am the Lord's servant," said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

23

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa-tan's
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

SERMON

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in His name. The creed is our saying back to God what He has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and His work of salvation accomplished for us in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian
and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Dt. 6:4

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

Col. 1:16

1 Cor 8:6

Jn. 3:16

Heb. 1:2,5

Jn. 1

Jn. 10:30

Jn. 1:3

1 Th. 5:9

Jn. 6:38

Lk. 1:35

Gal. 4:4

Mk. 15:15

1 Cor. 15:3-4a

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Lk. 1:33

Job 33:4

Jn. 15:26

Jn. 4:24

2 Pet. 1:25

Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20

Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38

1 Cor. 15:21-22

Rev. 22

*The Nicene Creed
is the great
Confession of the
Christian faith
professed by
all Christians.
The Creed
originated at the
First Council of
Nicaea (c. AD.
325)*

*The Creed itself
was crafted as a
confession of
Scripture in
opposition to the
Arian heresy,
which denied
that the Lord
Jesus and the
Holy Spirit are
God.*

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

- M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries You repeated and affirmed Your promise to send the Offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through Your prophets of old, You continually directed the eyes of Your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C: We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**
- M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.
- C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near."**
- M: You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this Good News be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas spare us from the distractions, stress and frenzy of the season.
- C: Fill our hearts with the true Christmas message of peace and music of Your grace.**
- M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger, but also to the skies where we will see Your Son coming again, not as a lowly Child but as the Lord of lords.
- C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

**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 BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
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

36 A Great and Mighty Wonder

36

A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And
 3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, Those
 4 Since all he comes to ran - som, By
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And



glo - rious mys - ter - y: A vir - gin bears an
 yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing
 bright an - gel - ic bands, Re - joice, O vales and
 all be he a - dored, The in - fant born in
 Sa - tan's ly - ing cease, And Christ shall raise his



in - fant Who veils his de - i - ty.
 an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain

Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

Text: Germanus, c. 634–734; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

The Service of the Sacrament



This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases help to highlight, celebrate and bring attention to the Sacrament.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*



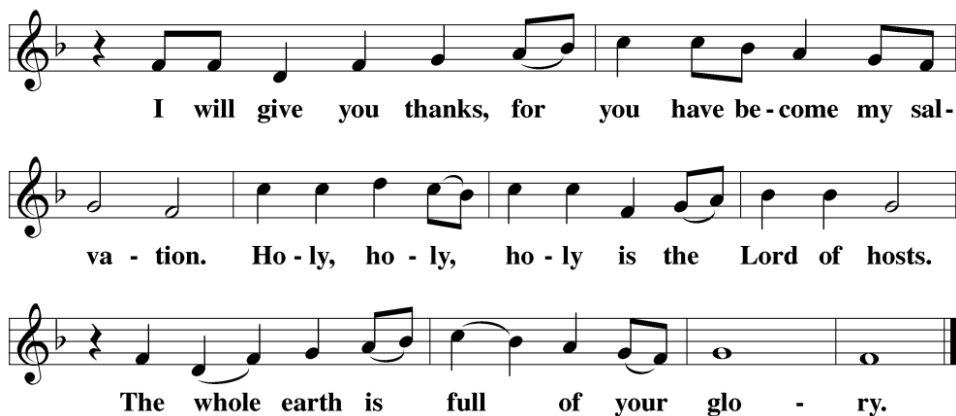
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.

PEACE OF THE LORD – *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal.

This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Close Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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