



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

December 1st, 2024

First Sunday in Advent

11721 Morrison Rd. | New Orleans, LA | 70128
Pastor Daniel Kramer | crownoflifepastor@gmail.com
(504)595-0373 | (504)354-1999



A Service of Worship and Praise

We Gather in God's Name

Greeting

OPENING HYMN: **African American Heritage Hymnal 188**
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Minister says: We begin our worship in praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation says: AMEN

We Prepare our Hearts

M: As believers in Christ, we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James, we are told, "Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: Lord, I pray to You because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from You and others by the sin in my life. I need Your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today, in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. AMEN.

We sing: *Change My Heart*

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

]: You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. :|

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He has sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin and restore sight to the blind, to give mercy to those whose lives are shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave His only son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord.

C: AMEN.

We sing: *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

|: Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way;
from the Earth to the Cross, my debt to pay;
from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high. :|

WE PRAY TOGETHER

M: Almighty God, you are eager to grant your goodness...

C: ...and joyful in sharing your grace.

M: You invite us into your presence...

C: ..to worship you with all our hearts.

M: Breathe your holy Spirit on us...

C: ...so that our tongues are eager to shout your praise!

M: Breathe your Holy Spirit on us...

C: ...so that our mouths are ready to proclaim the good news of Your Son.

M: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN .

We Listen to God's Word

FIRST LESSON:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ "'In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.'

We sing: *Shine Jesus Shine*

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

SECOND LESSON:

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and

day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray

that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Christian Worship 2
Savior of the Nations, Come

SERMON: Coming Soon: Christ

Isaiah 63:16b, 17; 64:1-8
Let us always be prepared to meet him

¹⁶ But you are our Father,
though Abraham does not know us
or Israel acknowledge us;
you, LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

¹⁷ Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes that are your inheritance.

64 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

² As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷ No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

PLEASE STAND

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 and 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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Instrumental

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: 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, forever and ever.

We sing: *Glorify Thy Name*

Father, we love you; we worship and adore you.

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you; we worship and adore you.

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you; we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

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."

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

C: AMEN

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood. Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

Christian Worship 7
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

THANKSGIVING:

Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

:| And now, let the weak say, "I am strong",
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us! :|

Give thanks!

C: 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.

AMEN.

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: AMEN

Be Ready for Jesus!**Mark 13:26-37**

After Thanksgiving, people put lights on their homes, festive garlands around door frames, and Christmas trees and decorations in their living spaces. These are signs that tell us Christmas is coming! They tell us it's time to celebrate Jesus' coming to earth as a baby.

God has given us some signs to know that judgment day is coming. Unlike the signs of Christmas, these things are not enjoyable—wars, famines, earthquakes, and false teachers. Can you see some of them happening in the world today? That means Jesus could come at any time. We don't know when this day is coming or when our last day on earth will be. So now is the time to be ready for Jesus' return.

How can we be ready for Jesus' return? In today's Bible reading, Jesus tells us to keep watch, be on guard, and be alert. That means we need to stay focused on our reward—heaven. Just like running a race requires you to keep your head up, eyes looking ahead, and focus on your end goal. Jesus wants you to do the same as you look forward to eternal life with him.

Don't lose sight of what God has prepared for us—distracted by all the activities and busy schedules in your family! Stay focused with eyes on Jesus. That way, you can really see and enjoy the blessings he has given us. Here's what helps keep you focused: hear and learn his Word, keep his promises in your heart, and pray for strength and perseverance as you wait.

Judgment day will be an event of great joy for believers. Mark tells us that Jesus will come with great power and glory. How magnificent that will be! What a comfort it will be to see our Savior face-to-face and be with him in heaven! We definitely want to be ready for that!

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, keep us ready for your return by keeping our eyes focused on our heavenly goal. Help us not to fear that day, but to look forward to it with joyful anticipation because we know our eternity is with you. Amen.

<http://www.wels.net/serving-you/devotions/family-devotions/>

Serving at CoL:	Today	Next Sunday
Music	Karis	Katherine, Elijah, Pastor
Ushers	Keith, Mike	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Reader		Mike
Altar	Beth	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Streaming		Noah
Refreshments	Karis, Beth, Leah	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Cleaning	Beth	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Mowing		<i>This Could Be You</i>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM Confirmation Class, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Dec 14 th	11:00 AM Happy Birthday Jesus
Dec 15 th	12:45 PM Council Meeting, Ladies Guild
Dec 24 th	6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25 th	11:00 AM Christmas Service

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget Met
Last Week	\$5,510.00	\$2,548.40	216.2%
October	\$10,926.05	\$11,043.08	98.9%
November	\$17,740.00	\$11,043.08	160.6%
Qtr-to-Date	\$28,666.05	\$33,129.25	86.5%
Year-to-Date	\$121,738.93	\$132,517.00	91.9%



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

