



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

December 8th, 2024
Second Sunday in Advent

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A Service of Worship and Praise

We Gather in God's Name

GREETING

OPENING HYMN

Christian Worship 1

The Advent of Our King

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

Malachi 3:1-4

3 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

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

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,

every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
6 And all people will see God's salvation."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 16

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

SERMON

Prepare Your Heart: John who Came Baptizing

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

OFFERING

Christian Worship 6

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

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

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 299

Blessed Be The Name

Serving at Col:	Today	Next Sunday
Pianist	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Bob, Lee	Perry, Seth
Reader	Mike	
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Shelleys	
Cleaning	Quiana	Quiana
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
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	\$3,697.00	\$2,548.40	145.1%
December	\$3,697.00	\$11,043.08	33.5%
Qtr-to-Date	\$32,363.05	\$33,129.25	97.7%
Year-to-Date	\$125,435.93	\$132,517.00	94.7%



*"...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*

