



Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Mission Statement

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming and inclusive community nourished by Christ in vibrant worship and committed to God's mission of love and service especially to the oppressed and to the poor.



Welcome Statement

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. Called by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people, inclusive of culture, age, race or ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or family structure. We are committed to the work of racial equity and justice within and through our community that we all may be transformed to be fully the body of Christ in our world. We invite you to worship with us, receive Christ's gift of Holy Communion with us, share your own story with us, and serve with us as we strive to live into God's universal embrace in Jesus Christ.

Whether you are a new member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you to our spiritual home.

- If this is your first Sunday with us, please stop by our information kiosk to learn more about our church community.
- During our worship service, children are invited to enjoy the playground area. For families with infants, our nursery attendants are available to provide care. The nursery is accessible through the courtyard.
- Our Holy Communion elements are free of gluten and alcohol. You may choose to receive both the bread and cup, or either one: Christ is fully present in all.
- Restrooms are conveniently located in the ministry building. From the nave, simply follow the cloister through the courtyard and enter the double doors; you will find the restrooms on your left.
- Please note that firearms are strictly prohibited within all Christ the King Church buildings and courtyard at all times.

We are delighted to have you join us and hope you have a meaningful experience with us.

Cover: *His name is John* by Daniel Bonnell 2010.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, *Setting Five*, beginning on page 156.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude

Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul, Op. 135a, No. 9
Max Reger (1873-1916)

*The organ prelude serves as an opportunity to center oneself before worship.
We ask the congregation to refrain from conversation once the prelude begins.*

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (*light two candles*)

Prayer

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

Hymn 240 (*verses 1 and 2*)

Light one candle to watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

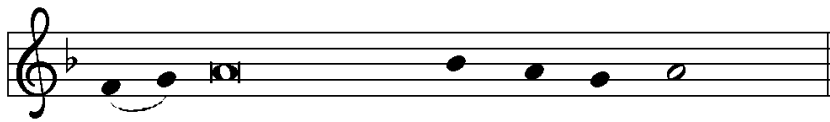
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

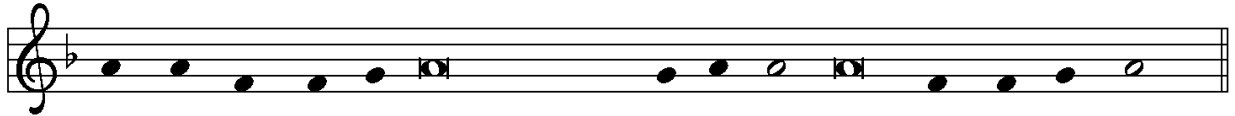
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



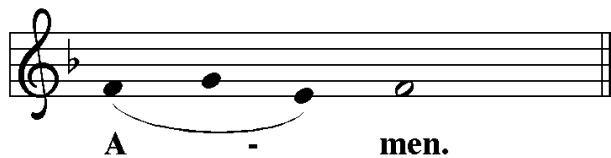
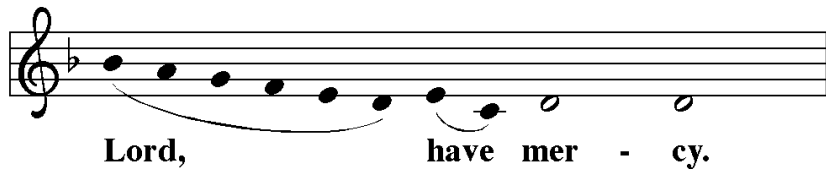
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

sit

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Whirl Story Bible, p. 166

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

or The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle (*verses: choir only*)

Luke 1:68-79

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

1 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
2 You have raised up for us a might - y Savior,
3 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
4 to show mercy to our forebears,
5 This was the oath you swore to our fa - ther Abraham:
6 free to worship you without fear,
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
8 to give God's people knowledge of sal - vation
9 In the tender compassion of our God
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

1 you have come to your people and set them free.
2 born of the house of your ser - vant David. *Refrain*
3 from the hands of all who hate us,
4 and to re - member your ho - ly covenant.
5 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. *Refrain*
7 for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare the way,
8 by the for - give - ness of their sins.
9 the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,
10 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Refrain*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler 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 region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

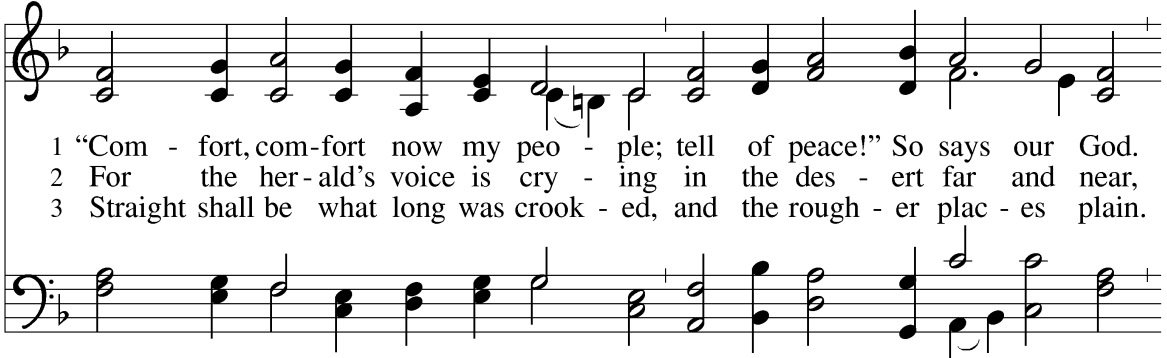
Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

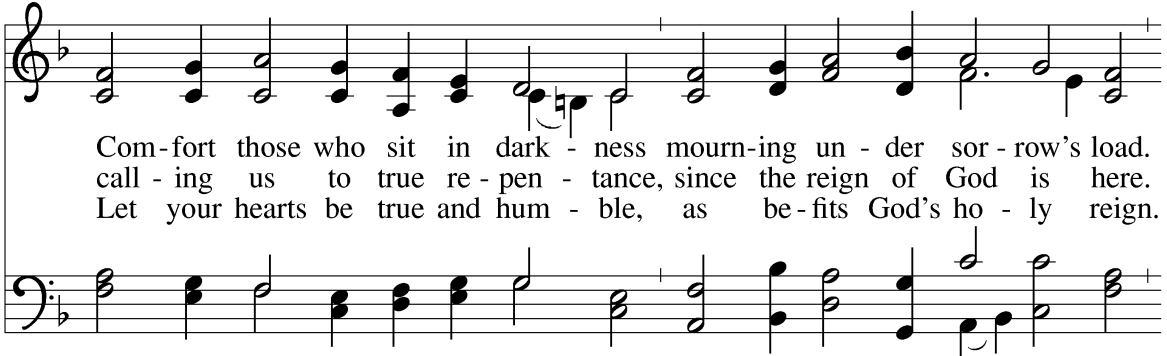
Sermon

Silence

At the conclusion of the introduction, the assembly stands to sing the Hymn of the Day.



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Baptism Anniversaries and Nicene Creed

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism as we rejoice with all who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Michael Vollmers, Yanis Eberhart, Yonas Eberhart, Aeron Hoogerwerf:

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Sit or kneel. Those in the Prayground are invited to light a tea light on the Prayground altar or color their prayers at this time and will be collected during the offering.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We join the whole church in commemorating: Lucy, martyr, died 304, December 13; John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591, December 14.

stand

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say:

Peace be with you.

sit

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

If you give through your bank or online, please place a reusable "Our Offering" card in the basket. These cards are located in front of you in the pew backs.

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is, and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!"

stand

Setting the Table (*vs 1-2*)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray:

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

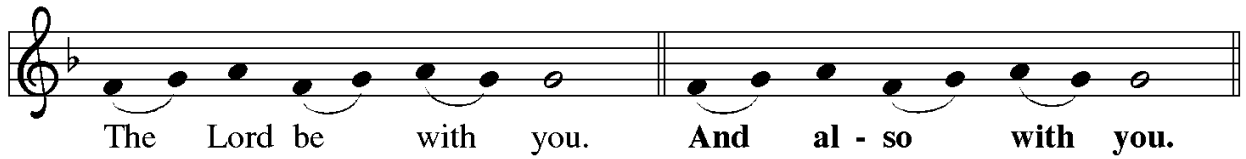
Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

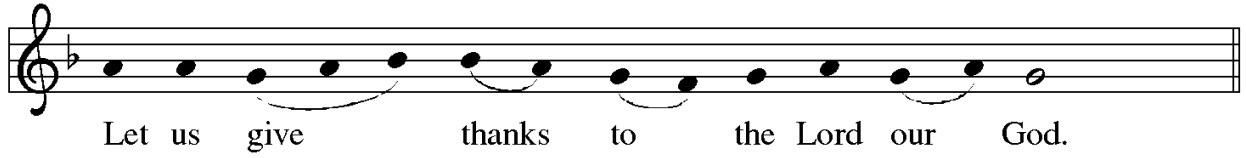
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues in thanksgiving and intercession.

We praise you, living and loving God,
 that you have sent your Son to this world.
 Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,
 our Lawgiver, burning with justice,
 the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from ancient roots,
 the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

We praise you, serving and saving God,
 That you send your Son also to this table.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
 In the night in which he was betrayed, took bread;
 and when he had given thanks,
 he broke it and gave it
 to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body,
which is given for you,
to do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
Drink, all of you, this cup is
the new covenant in my blood,
which is shed for you, and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sin;
do this for the remembrance of me.

We beg you, mighty and merciful God:
send us the Spirit of your Son.
dwell in this food and in al who share it,
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.
In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten this shadowed world,
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,
and live among us, Emmanuel,
our deepest desire now and forever.
And let God's people cry: O Come and save us!
O come and save us!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, to your church, with your Father and your Spirit,
and receive our prayers and praises, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to take an individual communion cup from the table at the corner of the pews and approach the altar rail from its corner. You may receive the sacrament or a blessing, kneeling or standing. Please return to the seats through the short center aisles where there are trays for used glasses. Children of all ages are invited to commune or receive a blessing. Our Holy Communion elements do not contain gluten or alcohol.

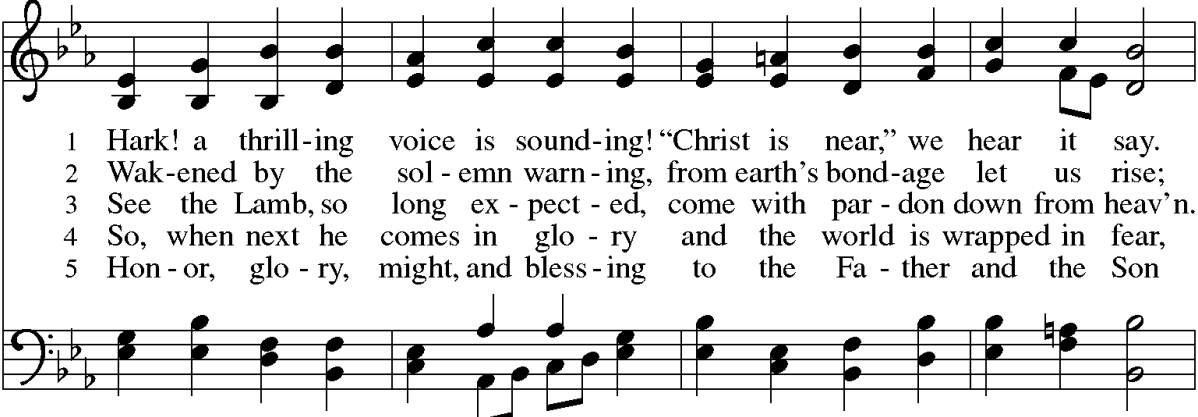
If you do not wish to commune, please come to the altar rail with other worshipers for a blessing.

sit

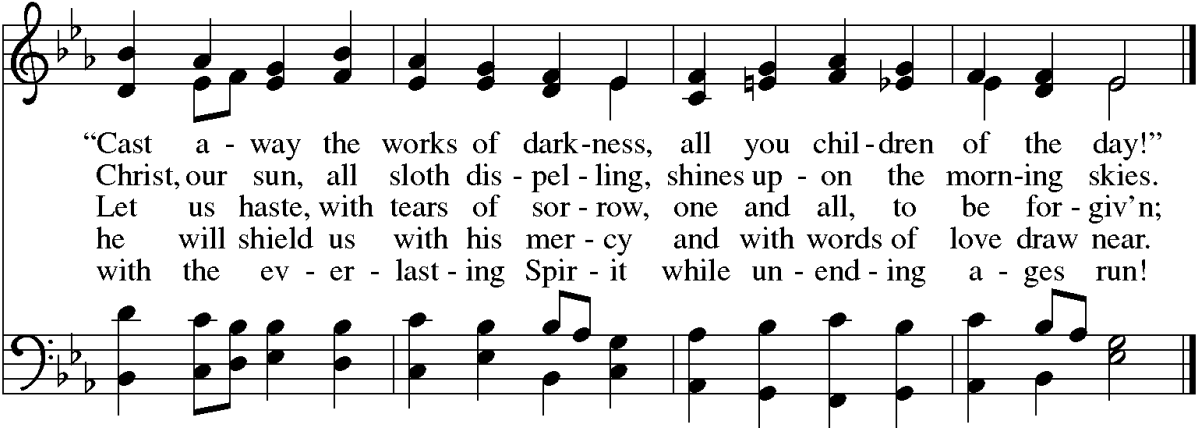
Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Hymn 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!


1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapp-ed in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

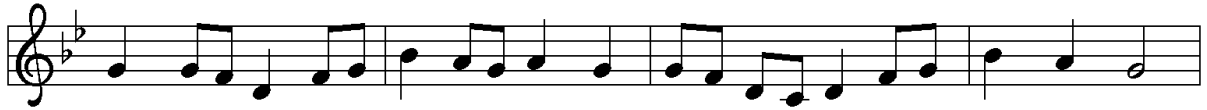


"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

stand

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The bread and wine are taken from the Lord's table to members who are hospitalized, home-bound, or otherwise unable to be present in the liturgy.

Post Communion Canticle

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy,

bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

**As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.**

Guide us toward your promised future,

coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Brief Announcements

Sending Hymn 259

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Blessing

God the eternal Word,
 who dwells with us in Jesus,
 and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
 ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Peeling of the Bells

Mission Offering

ELCA World Hunger

Earliest accounts of Christian worship testify to an offering following the Eucharist designated to the poor and the alien by those able to give out of gratitude to God and generosity in imitating Christ.

Month-to-date contributions are \$813.35.

Christ the King Lutheran Church thanks you for your generous financial support. Offerings may be mailed to the church office, 2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005, or given online through our website, www.ctkelc.org.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Denise Engle in celebration of the anniversary of the baptism of grandson Aeron William Hoogerwerf.

This Week at Christ the King Church

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday in Advent:

Sunday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Worship, nave

9:00 a.m. UMOJA Worship,

Memorial Campus

9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, parish hall

9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, 2nd

floor council room

9:45 a.m. Music Gathering for Kids,

music suite

10:00 a.m. Godly Play Classes

10:20 a.m. Choir rehearsal, nave

11:00 a.m. Worship, nave

12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting Part One,
parish hall

12:15 p.m. Youth Christmas Party,
narthex

Monday, December 9

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home

12:00 p.m. Lectio Divina, online

1:00 p.m. Women in Transition, offsite

7:00 p.m. Scandinavian Dancers,
parish hall

Tuesday, December 10

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer at home

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Rice Village
Campus

Wednesday, December 11

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home

10:30 a.m. Bible Study Christmas Party,
Brownlee home

6:00 p.m. Advent Potluck & Crafting,
Rice Village Campus, parish hall

6:00 p.m. Brass Choir, narthex

7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers, nave

7:00 p.m. Brass Quintet, parish hall

7:00 p.m. Prayers Shawl Knitters, online

7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, music suite

Thursday, December 12

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home

3:00 p.m. Bible study, The Rev. Dr.
Amandus Derr, online

5:45 p.m. Boy Choir, music suite &
nave

6:30 p.m. D&D Meeting, offsite

Friday, December 13

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home

Saturday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Freewheels Houston Service
Day, offsite

9:00 a.m. Crèche Festival Houston,
parish hall

1:00 p.m. Online Yoga

3:00 p.m. Bach Society Christmas
Oratorio, Rice Village Campus

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship, nave

7:00 p.m. Young Adult Christmas party, offsite	9:00 a.m. UMOJA Worship, Memorial Campus
Third Sunday in Advent: Sunday, December 15	9:45 a.m. Las Posadas and Waffle Café, courtyard
8:30 a.m. Worship, nave	10:20 a.m. Choir rehearsal, nave
9:00 a.m. Crèche Festival Houston, parish hall	11:00 a.m. Worship, nave
	12:00 p.m. Virgin of Guadalupe Worship Service, offsite

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Join us each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and connection with your church families. There are numerous opportunities to spend time together between our services, including tours for learning about our Rice Village church campus, coffee and fellowship time, bible studies, and more.

Upcoming Topics:

December 8:

- Do You See What I See? Imagery in Nativity Scenes by Daniel Zorn (Parish Hall)

December 15:

- Las Posadas and Waffle Cafe (Courtyard)
- Creche Festival (Parish Hall)

December 22:

- Luminary Creation Workshop (Parish Hall)
- Worship Enabler Training (Nave)

December 29:

- Hot Chocolate and Bring Your Own Christmas Snacks (Courtyard)

Do You See What I See? Imagery in Nativity Scenes: Sunday, December 8 at 9:45 a.m.

Although Nativity scenes can be enjoyed on purely aesthetic and spiritual grounds, to fully appreciate a Nativity it is necessary to understand the origins of the imagery and the context in which it was created. Daniel Zorn, coordinator of the Creche Festival, hosted by Christ the King, will lead a discussion on imagery in nativity scenes.

Luther League Christmas Tree Decorating Gathering: December 8 at 12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All 6th – 12th grade youth and their parents are invited to help decorate the church Christmas tree at 12:15 p.m. Afterwards, we will have our white elephant exchange. Please bring a gift under \$10 (new or used) for the gift exchange. Gifts are typically something laying around the house that you don't want and that is funny, tacky, or "Gag Gift."

Annual Meeting Part One: Sunday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m.

Our Annual Meeting (Part One) will be held Sunday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m. as we elect new council members and vote on our budget for 2025. Lunch will be provided, and childcare will be offered. Thank you for your presence and support.

Transitions Meeting: December 9th at 1:00 pm

The Transitions group will meet at Bette Bowers home. There will be no programming this month, just enjoying lunch together. Please RSVP to Bette directly or contact Kim Williams for more information.

Advent Potluck, Programming & Vespers: at Rice Village Campus on Wednesday, December 11, & 18 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us on Wednesdays in Advent for a potluck supper, crafting, and worship beginning at 6:00 p.m. Vespers begin at 7:00 p.m. Programming will include:

- **A Christmas Story Bible Study**
- **Advent D&D:** Join us for a time of adventure as Deacon Ben Remmert will be leading a special Dungeons and Dragons Mini campaign during the season of Advent.
- **Kid's Music Class:** Children are invited to join Amy Kerswell for a joyful time of music-making! Through singing and choir activities, we will explore the sounds of the season of Advent together.

If you are planning to bring an item to share, please contact Deacon Aimee Elles at aimeeelles@ctkelc.org.

Prayer Shawl Knitters: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? You are invited to join online as we create prayer shawls to be distributed to members and friends of the congregation experiencing life-changing events. All experience and expertise levels are invited to join us, please contact Deacon Aimee, Beverly Palmer, or Sharon Oswalt to receive a zoom link.

Bible Studies at Christ the King Church

Weekly Bible studies, in person and on zoom, on both campuses

- **Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.** with The Rev. Dr. Amandus Derr, Advent Psalms online (until Dec.19).

Freewheels Houston Service Day: December 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Come join us as we volunteer at Freewheels Houston on Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 6020 Jessamine Dr., #204, Houston, Texas 77081. Volunteers will help repair donated used bikes that become safe, reliable transportation for refugees, veterans emerging from homelessness and students from low-income families who need transportation to work and school. Shop volunteers' clean bikes and help with other tasks around the shop and Bike Connectors assist refugees and others who are scheduled to receive bicycles.

Bach Society Houston: Christmas Oratorio: Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m.

The Bach Choir and Orchestra present Bach's Oratorio at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Village Campus. Tickets available at the QR code and at BachSocietyHouston.org.



Crèche Festival Houston: December 14-15 at 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Unique & Unexpected: A Crèche Festival

31 artists representing 15 states (from Massachusetts to Alaska) have been juried into this year's exhibition with unexpected elements to depict Christ's birth. In addition to the juried contemporary nativity art, an international selection from a private collection, children's artwork, and an item courtesy

of the Hallmark Archives, Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, USA, will be displayed in the parish hall for viewing enjoyment.

Young Adult Christmas Party: Saturday December 14 at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pastor Sergio Rodriguez invites the Young Adults of Christ the King Church to his home for a Christmas party. Food, Beverages, and festive cheer will abound as the Young Adults enjoy a night of fellowship (and the singing of Las Posadas). If you would like to join and/or bring any supplies for the party, please RSVP to Pastor Sergio Rodriguez, sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org, by December 11, 2024.

Intergenerational Las Posadas Program: Sunday, December 15 at 9:45 a.m.

You are invited to our Annual Las Posadas program, together with our Sunday School teachers, children and youths, and guest musicians. We will begin our time in the Courtyard by singing the traditional Las Posadas, process around the church, and end back in the Courtyard for a fiesta of waffles and tamales (from the Luther League), and a pinata! The Luther League will be collecting donations for their upcoming trip to Guatemala this summer.

Virgin of Guadalupe Worship Service @ St. James/Santiago Apostól: Sunday, December 15 at 12:00 p.m.

Christ the King Church and one of our mission partners, St. James/Santiago Apostol Lutheran Church, will be celebrating the Feast of La Virgen de Guadalupe together on December 15. St. James/Santiago Apostol Lutheran Church will be hosting this worship service at 12 p.m. (1602 W 43rd St, Houston, TX 77018). There will be a festive bi-lingual service with communion, traditional Mexican dancers, and a fiesta afterwards. All are invited to attend! Bring your friends, familia, neighbors, everyone to commemorate the story of how God spoke through his Son to indigenous people by means of the appearance of his mother, Mary.

Christmas Flower Donations - Deadline Dec. 16

You may contribute toward decorating the Rice Village Campus nave for our Christmas services by donating **\$20 per poinsettia** and greenery. Please email Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Please note whether your gift is in honor or memory of a loved one. You may write a check or pay online at ctkelc.org/give and designate "Christmas flowers." The **deadline is Monday, December 16.**

Las Posadas at the Parsonage: Saturday, December 21 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Come and enjoy tamales and sing some Las Posadas songs at the Parsonage. Please RSVP to Cheryl (cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org).

KIDS AND KIN: Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to attend our special Kids and Kin event on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. as we will gather for camp style worship and afterwards will have dinner together with fellowship events and opportunities for children until 8:00 p.m. We will be baking and decorating cookies for our homebound members. For more questions, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Longest Night Worship Service: Saturday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Though the season of Advent brings joy, for many others it may be filled with fatigue, grief, loss, and loneliness. This special service provides space for prayer, reflection and remembrance to honor those who are weary.

Worship Enabler Training Opportunities: Rice Village Campus

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, we invite you to join us in making our worship services meaningful. We have several opportunities to train and prepare our Worship Enablers, including ushers, bellringers, and acolytes.

- **December 22nd: Christmas Eve Practice** at 9:45 am between services. This practice will help ensure everyone is ready for our special Christmas Eve worship services.

Every role, from ushering and ringing bells to carrying the light of Christ, is vital to creating a welcoming worship experience. Whether you're

experienced or new, come be part of our team and help make this season beautiful for all. **Sign up today** or reach out if you have any questions.

Worship Opportunities at Church this Christmas

December 24: Christmas Eve Services

2:00 p.m.: Family Service (Rice Village Campus)

4:00 p.m.: German Language Service (Rice Village Campus & livestream)

4:00 p.m.: Festive Service (Memorial Campus)

8:00 p.m.: Festive Service with Incense (Rice Village Campus & livestream)

December 25: Christmas Day

11:00 a.m.: Worship and Holy Communion (Rice Village Campus & livestream)

December 28-29: First Weekend of Christmas

6:00 p.m. Saturday Contemplative Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship and Holy Communion

Community of Hope Training - January 2025

Do you long to deepen your relationship with God and strengthen your ability to handle difficult circumstances in everyday life? Do you want to be a better listener—to God, your family, your co-workers, and neighbors? The Community of Hope training awakens participants to God’s call on their lives through experiential discovery and a journey into wholeness. This 10-session spiritual formation program is anchored in the timeless principles of Benedictine spirituality and equips people to serve in all forms of ministry, including lay chaplaincy. For more information and to receive an application, contact Deacon Aimee at aimeelles@ctkelc.org or Beverly Davis at bad21a@aol.com.

Flowers for the Nave in 2025

You are invited to sign up to provide the altar flowers for weekend services. To donate flowers in honor, memory of or thanksgiving for someone, you will find available dates listed by scanning the QR Code, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BABA92FA1FCC61-53410172-2025>, or you may email your preferred date to Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Flower arrangements are \$70 per Sunday. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with “Altar Flowers” in the memo line or submit an online payment at www.ctkelc.org.



Snacks Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for:

- December 22 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- December 29 at 9:30 a.m.
- January 5 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.



You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!

Serving

God gives us gifts and talents so that we might serve.

David Karohl.....	Head Usher
Rustin Buck, Luke Havemann.....	Bellringers
Ella Havemann.....	Acolyte
Beverly Davis.....	Crucifer
Ben Kerswell.....	Cantor
Martin Jones.....	Music Associate
Rachel McWhirter, Mark Lichtenberger.....	Digital Vergers
Cathy Norberg.....	Lay Eucharistic Minister
Peter Boecher.....	Lay Eucharistic Minister
Judy Hungerford.....	Lay Eucharistic Minister
Aimee Liou Havemann.....	Server
Bill Pelham.....	Server
Lisa Kruegar.....	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali.....	Presiding Minister
The Rev. Gary Heath.....	Preacher

Members of the Altar Guild:

Jill Bailer, Bette Bowers, Anita

Bryant, Kellye Burke, Carole Derr, Reinetta Hansen, Maureen Lamson, Gaelyn Lesher, Liz Lloyd, Linda Marx, Peggy Mathis, Jacquelyn McAnelly, Marie Monroe, Mary Jane Orsburn, Jan Petner, Eleanor Verret, and Nyla Woods. Members bake bread and order flowers, deliver flowers to church members, rotate paraments, arrange the communion ware, and generally prepare the nave for worship. Contact Gaelyn Lesher, lesher2@sbcglobal.net, for more information.

The People of Christ the King Church Ministers
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali..... Senior Pastor
The Rev. Sergio Rodriguez Pastor of Parish Life
Dcn. Ben RemmertDeacon of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Rachel McWhirterDirector of Digital Ministry
Dcn. Aimee Elles..... Director of Congregational Engagement
Kim Williams.....Director of Community Engagement
Ben Kerswell.....Cantor
Dcn. Rick Erickson..... Cantor Emeritus
Martin Jones..... Music Associate
Robert Walp..... Director of the Brass Choir
Vicki Gorman, Calvin Harris, Fernando Grimaldo.....Staff Singers
Scott Summers.....Property Maintenance Technician
Cheryl Gaspard.....Executive Administrator
Maribel Haro Administrative Assistant
Herlinda Torres, Lena Zahlan.....Nursery Attendants
Santiago Callejas, Arturo Ortega.....Custodians

Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696

Memorial Campus: 12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024

Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

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 2024

All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

