

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
November 12, 2023
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Mark Selbo

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have wandered far from you:

we have not trusted your promises,

we have ignored your prophets in our own day,

we have squandered our inheritance of grace,

we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

Teach us to follow in your ways,

assure us again of your love,

and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

SONG: Dearest Jesus, at Your Word, ELW #520

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

Dearest Jesus, at your word – we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred – and in glowing faith be near you,
as the promises here given – draw us wholly up to heaven.

All our knowledge, sense and sight – lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night – filling us with light unclouded.

All good thoughts and all good living – come but by your gracious giving.

Radiance of God's glory bright – Light of light from God proceeding;
Jesus, send your blessed light – help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers & songs may please you – as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Father, Son and Holy Ghost – praise to you and adoration!

Grant us what we need the most: all your gospel's consolation,

while we here on earth await you – till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Amos 5:18-24

Amos warns to repent and turn from sin or God will bring his justice...

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light.

It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light – pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 70

Hasten, O God, to save me;
come quickly, Lord, to help me.

May those who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.

May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
**may those who long for your saving help
always say, “The Lord is great!”**

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come quickly to me, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer;
Lord, do not delay.

READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(Paul, Silas and Timothy write to the church in Thessalonians:) Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

– *Please stand as you are able* –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to You, O Lord.

(*Jesus said:*) “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – “Faithful Waiting”

SONG: Give Me Oil in My Lamp *(Traditional)*

(Printed on bulletin insert)

Give me oil in my lamp; Keep me burning for the Lord.

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray. *(I pray!)*

Give me oil in my lamp; Keep me burning for the Lord.

Keep me burning 'til the break of day.

Sing hosana, sing hosana, sing hosana to the King of Kings.

Sing hosana, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Give me joy in my heart; Keep me singing to the Lord.

Give me joy in my heart, I pray. *(I pray!)*

Give me joy in my heart; Keep me singing to the Lord.

Keep me singing 'til the break of day. **Sing, hosanna...**

Give me peace in my heart; Keep me resting in the Lord.

Give me peace in my heart, I pray. *(I pray!)*

Give me peace in my heart; Keep me resting in the Lord.

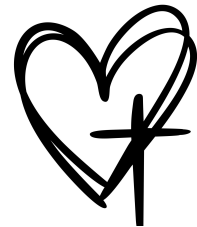
Keep me resting 'til the break of day. **Sing, hosanna...**

Give me love in my heart; Keep me serving for my Lord.

Give me love in my heart, I pray. *(I pray!)*

Give me love in my heart; Keep me serving for my Lord.

Keep me serving 'til the break of day. **Sing, hosanna...**



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*
Merciful God... Receive our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.
– *Please share a socially distanced sign of peace or greeting –*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Sent Forth by God's Blessing, ELW #547

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face –

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Holiday Gift Show** – Thank you for supporting the PreSchool and our vendors this past Friday and Saturday. Raffle tickets are still available - check with Kathy Davis. Thank you, Monica, for organizing this special event!
- **Saturday with St. Nick** – Sat, Dec. 2 from 10a to noon – songs, craft, snacks and a chance to visit with Santa. Bring your whole family. Our gift to the community.
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our first delivery to Chicago. We continue to collect: Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – Our first batch of sleeping mats, small suitcases and OTC medicines were delivered to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. This collection continues as more refugees continue to arrive.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo. We will also collect special items for Holiday Gift Bags, with a new plan being formulated by Sue right now. (Please also lift up Sue's husband Hasu in your prayers as he is recovering from a heart attack.)
- **Love INC** – Always looking for housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more about this amazing organization? Talk with Natalie.
- **COOL Ministries** – We continue to support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you to all who support our partner Scouts as they have supported us – especially with yard work! Check with Scouts to see if you can still purchase popcorn or Christmas wreaths and garland.
- **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa Calabrese (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).

CALENDAR:

- Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m., only, this year.
- Caring Hands – Saturday, Nov 18 from 9a to noon
- Tentatively planning to put up the Christmas Tree after worship on November 26
- Saturday with St Nick - Dec 2
- Advent begins Dec 3
- Special projects for Christmas - Gift Bags for the kids of Sue's Pantry families. Details will be available soon.