

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Joleen Gleasman

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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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

– Silence for reflection and self-examination –

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.
Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven

and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

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

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.**

SONG: Light One Candle, ELW #240 (vs 2)

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah; Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd; Gently lead them homeward.**

– Silence for reflection as we light two Advent candles –

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

From Prepare: An Advent Devotional, Bethany Fellows/Chalice Press, (c)2019

Matthew 3:3: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The season of Advent brings the chaos of *planning* and *doing*. As we prepare to receive the Christ child, give us eyes to see the brokenness and chaos of the world – and the courage not to turn away from its pain. Give us the desire to see in the brokenness the holy potential for the kingdom of God. Let this time slow so that we might be able to cultivate a sense of gratitude, a practice of peace, and a response to the call to be peacemakers in a broken world.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second candle of Advent, as people who long for peace. May we prepare the path for the Prince of Peace to enter into our midst.

We read together:

**We light the second candle of Advent
as people who long for *peace*.**

**May we prepare the path for the Prince of Peace
to enter into our midst.**

Let us pray: God of hope and peace, we pray that in this season we transform to become not just receivers of your peace, but also peacemakers in the footsteps of Jesus. **Amen.**

READING – Malachi 3:1-4

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. 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 washers' soap; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
**that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

READING – Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 – Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 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.

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

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

SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: All Earth is Hopeful, ELW #266

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free...

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A Virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
She conceived him, "God with us," – our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of the earth...

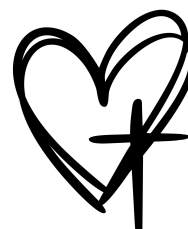
Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
New highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world, he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

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)*
Lord in your mercy... Receive our prayer.



PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –

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. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice. All are welcome.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

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

SONG – How Firm a Foundation, ELW #796

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus the Word!
What more can he say, than to you he has said,
who unto the Savior for refuge has fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

“Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove,
my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs, shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

DISMISSAL

We prepare the way. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Joy Bags for Sue's Pantry Kids – by next Sunday** – This year's list includes even more children (approx 60). PreSchool families will shop for youngest 25 children, while we give to the older kids. Gift bags are simple with values of about \$25 with a few things for each child. For younger teens, ideas include hats, mittens/gloves, sweater/sweatshirt, toy/game, candy and/or a small gift card to Walmart or Target. For older teens, gloves, fun socks, small gift card, candy, lotion, chapstick, ear buds/charging cord, card game, journal or pens. Please pray on how we might make this happen. Holly (HollySJ@earthlink.net) has details so you can shop for a specific child (age/gender/personality), or donate cash and the CLC elves will put things together. Please provide filled bags by December 15. Thank you!
- **Saturday with St. Nick** – Thanks for your support of yesterday's fun!!
- **Christmas Eve Worship** – Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. – Please take time to worship.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. There was so much we must send a second load. Thank you!
- **Caring Hands** – Saturday, January 18 from 9a to noon. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/mittens. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Donating to Storm/Fire Victims** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at ELCA.org.
- **Scouting!** – Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Thanks for supporting our Pack and Troop!
- **PreSchool Prayers** – Keep the children, families and staff of our PreSchool in prayer.
- **Support for Anelly** – Our ministry partner Anelly, a young mother of two who has supported refugees in Chicago, has a recurrence of cancer and other challenges. Please lift her in prayer and consider supporting the Meal Train (HollySJ@earthlink.net).
- **Sue's Pantry** – Call for toilet paper! And anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you!