Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday in Advent – PEACE

Rev. Rebecca Gordon

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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, PRAYER CONCERNS, THANKSGIVINGS

After chimes, Kathy Davis will take requests to add to the Prayers of Intercession,
and provide Pastor with the updated sheet.

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.**

SONG: Hark, the Glad Sound! #239

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

> He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
> The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace, enrich the humble poor.

> Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
> and heaven's eternal arches ring, with your beloved name.

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!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

Adapted from *The Word Made Flesh: Daily Devotions for Advent,* Creative Communications, Jacob Torbeck, *(c)2024*

On this second Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that this is to be a season of peace on earth, goodwill to all. This season we practice having peace with others. We put aside our differences especially with other believers, because we belong to the same family, the same body. We have the same purpose: to let others know about the peace of Christ.

The Hebrew word for peace – Shalom – goes far beyond not fighting with others or peace as we know it. Shalom is, in essence, how things are meant to be – a slice of heaven. Even the angels cried out, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” The angels knew God’s purpose. They know the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas holds. They recognized that the fullness of God was wrapped humbly in the flesh of a tiny infant. Emmanuel. God dwelling with us as the baby Jesus.

Last Sunday we lit the first candle – the candle of *hope*. Today we light the second candle, the candle of *peace*, knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities. Let us pray together:

> **Heavenly Father, keep us in perfect peace.**
> **Help our minds rest in the truth of your powerful love.**
> **Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand.**
> **Help us to trust in you. Help us rest in the peace that you offer.**
> **In Jesus’ we pray. Amen.**

We light the 2nd Advent candle and sing…

SONG: Light A Candle Bright and Tall, verse 2

(Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; Tune: As with Gladness Men of Old, #302)

Light a candle bright and tall, for the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small. God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

READING – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

READING – Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NOTE TO PASTOR:
After the readings, Kathy Davis will invite any children who are present to leave the sanctuary for an activity. They return in time for Communion/ Blessing.

– *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 3:1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

SERMON: Pastor Rebecca Gordon

SONG: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, #249

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

> Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
> and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

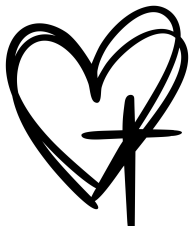
> Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
> Oh, let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won;
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

God of grace… **hear 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 *(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 receive Communion or a blessing. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

Today we will offer both traditional distribution of bread and wine as well as single-serving Communion kits. Please choose as you feel comfortable. If you would like **Traditional Communion,** select an empty cup from the tray and come forward to receive a piece of bread in your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. **Single-serving kits** are available in the second tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Word of God made flesh, you have fed us in body and in spirit.
We find you in the wheat, the grapes, and the hands that serve them.
Bless us as we take these elements with us and out into the world.
May the hope of this feast accompany our journey. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine upon 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: Let Justice Flow Like Streams, #717

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

Let justice flow like streams, of sparkling water, pure;
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

> Let righteousness roll on, as others' cares we heed;
> An overflowing stream of faith, translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true;
And justice, right and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

DISMISSAL

We prepare the way. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

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

All are invited to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Christmas Eve Worship** – Wednesday, December 24 at 4p
- **Stock the Pantries! – Non-Perishables Needed.** Bring your donations of nonperishable food, paper goods, hygiene supplies, etc. and we will deliver to local pantries, which need all they help they can get. Also collecting fresh milk, eggs, meat, produce for specific families.Thank you!
- **Meals in a Bag** – 2 gal ziplocks with all the nonperishable ingredients needed to make a hearty meal – bags and ingredient list/recipe cards available in the Narthex or on our website. We will provide these as needed and encourage everyone to have a couple to hand out.
- **Here to help.** Do you or someone you know need food or support, especially with the loss of benefits? Reach out to the church at ChristLutheranVH@aol.com or 847-367-5787**.**
- **Alert Whistles & Rights Cards** – On the bulletin table. To use or share as needed.
- **Pray Over Our PreSchool Ministry** – May we continue to effectively bring the message of God's love for all into our community.
- **Cub Scout Pack 273 Popcorn Sale –** email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org.
- **Troop 273 Wreath Sale –** Lucas has information; view the brochure online – https://northwoodswreaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-NWW-Brochure.pdf
- **Donating to Victims of Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Drought, War** – 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. There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Caring Hands** – On break until January 17. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hat and mittens. Reach out for information or projects for home. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Scouting! –** Christ Lutheran is the Charter Organization for Pack 273 & Troop 273. Programs for girls and boys ages Kindergarten through high school, building skills, making connections and having fun. For younger kids, email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org. For older kids, email committeechair@troop273vh.net. Thanks to Holly & Bill Jones and their volunteers for their efforts in leading the groups. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **Sue's Pantry** – Sue has moved her pantry to a space in Arlington Heights. We will continue to collect anything needed to keep a home and family clean.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Know a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to 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. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** 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!