

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**C: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

P: The Lord will give you a sign.

A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

**C: And they shall name him Emmanuel,
Which means "God is with us."**

Isaiah 7:14
Matthew 1:23

CW 18 vv 1-2
Text
Tune
Setting
Public Domain



O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come you a - right?
Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's De - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my li - ber - ty.



O Je - sus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing That led you to em - brace



To show me how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
In love, all love ex - cell - ing, Our lost and fall - en race!

This service begins with the words that began our life with God - the words spoken at Baptism. The sign of the cross, traced over us at Baptism, marks us as those redeemed by Christ.

INVOCATION – Matthew 28:19

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION – 1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, reflecting on the times we have neglected the mission he has given us. Let us ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

The Bible encourages us to acknowledge and confess our sins. God promises to respond with his gift of forgiveness.

ABSOLUTION – John 1:29 & 20:23

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the Word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Because Jesus took away the guilt of the world, he authorizes his followers to announce his forgiveness to all who are sorry for their sins.

LORD, HAVE MERCY – Mark 10:47

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all that they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving Gospel through the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.

Christians praise
 God by
 proclaiming the
 great things he has
 done to
 accomplish our
 rescue from sin.
 "Glory to God in
 the Highest" has
 been a Christian
 song of worship
 since the 4th
 Century.

GLORY BE TO GOD – Luke 2:14



All Glo - ry be to God on high! Your name, O Lord, we
 Our grate-ful thanks to you we bring. For your great glo - ry,



glo - ri - fy; We praise you for your peace and grace, Your
 heav - 'nly King, For all, O Fa - ther, you have done Through



fa - vor toward our fall - en race.
 Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

Tune CW 84 Public
 Domain

THE WORD

Repent,
 for the kingdom of
 heaven is near!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

**The
 Peace of
 Christmas**

VERSE OF THE DAY



GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹'I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"

CW 13

SERMON – based on Gospel Lesson – Matthew 3:1-12

The organist will play it through once.

John the Baptist
Christmas Card
Collection



"Repent, you
brood of vipers!"

Public
confession is
faith's
response to
God's saving
Word.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God our Lord and Father in heaven, who made us the crown of his creation, and preserves us with every good thing, that we may live before him in peace and joy.

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son from eternity, who became a man for us sinners. Who redeemed us from Satan's power with his holy precious blood, rose from death, and made us his own to live with him now and forever.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who draws us to our Savior by the Gospel, who keeps us united in the true faith, forgives our sins, and at the end of the world will raise us from death to eternal life. I believe in the Triune God. Amen.

Following the
offering we
pray for the
church.

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT

We practice membership communion, and ask that those who partake first become members of our congregation.

The words of
the Preface
mark the
beginning of
the
Communion
section of the
service and lift
the worshippers'
hearts in
praise. The
opening
sentences are
among the
oldest in the
Christian
liturgy.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

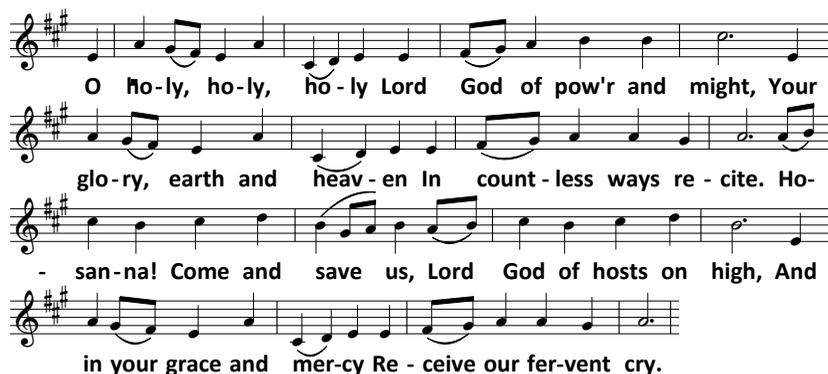
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes to make his home in our hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus) – Isaiah 6:1-3



O Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of pow'r and might, Your
glo-ry, earth and heav-en In count-less ways re-cite. Ho-
-san-na! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
in your grace and mer-cy Re-ceive our fer-vent cry.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

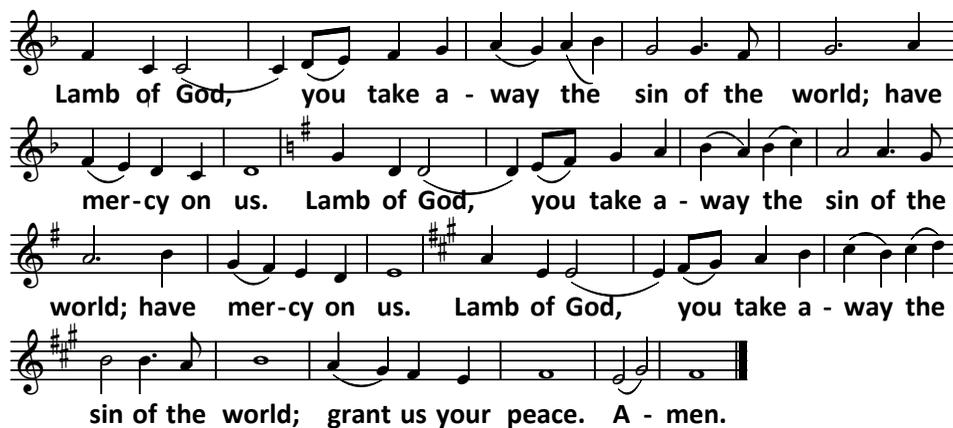
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD - John 1:29



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 your peace. A-men.

In this song we praise God, who is present with us in his Supper.

Tune: CW 130
Public Domain

As he speaks the Words of Institution the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

The organist will play the melody once and we will join in.

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN

"As Angels Joyed With One Accord"

CW 5

SONG OF SIMEON

O Lord, now let your ser-vant De - part in peace, as - sured:
For I have seen your prom-ised in - car-nate, sav-ing Word-
A Light that will en - light-en All gloom, where Gen-tiles dwell;
The bril-liant, crown-ing glo-ry Of those in Is-ra - el!

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on (them), and I will bless them."

BLESSING - Numbers 6:24-29

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

CWS 702

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Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is
God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal

near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread

lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not

glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry Ho -
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you! Ho -

- san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!
- san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!



CHRIST OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

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