

Holy Communion

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Exploring the promise of God for all

Welcome to Central Lutheran Church.
You are welcome, no exceptions.

Here are a few notes you might find helpful for worship:

Bold print indicates responses spoken by all. Masks are welcomed.

Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

(At the sound of the bell, please stand and face the font)



The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on this first day of the week.

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

Early in the cool morn hours

Early, before the waking of the sky

Early, while the day yet sleeps

Navaho and Lakota

Cree and Ojibway

The many People of the Land

Arise

To sing forth the sun.

Like a morning sacrifice of praise,

It is a duty, to sing forth the sun.

It is a prayer

And a need like breath

To know the universe awaits you

To sing forth the sun.

In a time of waiting,

When the dawn will come

As surely as the night,

In a time of waiting

It is a duty and a prayer

to sing forth

the sun.

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

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

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more. Let this be the journey of God's people will joy through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)



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

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

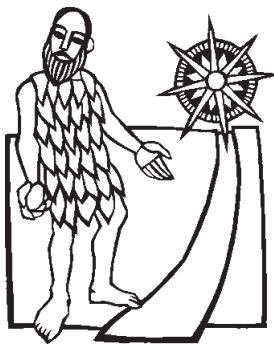
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir sings once, then all repeat



*Choir: I am sending my messenger before you,
who will prepare your way before you.*

All: Repeat Alleluia



GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

Hymn 266



*You belong to Christ,
in whom you have been
baptized. Alleluia!*

Baptism

HOLY BAPTISM

Jack Louis Quinnell, child of Madeline McCloughan and Evan Quinnell.
Sponsors: Emily and Bryan Tolly
Katherine McCloughan and Joshua Blankenship

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

BAPTISM

Jack Louis, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

After baptism, all are invited to join in singing:

Text: Galatians 3:27, alt.
Music: Howard Hughes, b. 1930

PRAYERS FOR THE SPIRIT, ANOINTING AND SIGNING WITH THE CROSS, AND GIVING OF THE LIGHT

WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.

Each petition concludes:

We wait for you, O God,
Hear our prayer.

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

(Please be seated)



Scan to make a financial offering.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Magnificat”

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoic'd in God my Saviour.
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is might hath magnified me and holy is His name
And His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scatter'd the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble,
the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty
away.
He remembering His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel,
as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end,
Amen.*

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Hymn 726

Verse 3

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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...and join in their unending hymn:

(Organ)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav'n 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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

...Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, we pray as Jesus has taught us:

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

All are invited to receive these
gifts of God.

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION

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

“My Song in the Night”

Elaine Hagenberg

*O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee,
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.*

“What Feast of Love”

Hymn 487

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make
known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



God blesses us and sends us for shared mission in our shared world.

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“People, Look East”

Hymn 248

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo,” BWV 729

Setting, Johann Sebastian Bach

Serving Today

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>hospitality</i>
Kathryn Holum	<i>assisting</i>
Tom von Fischer	<i>reader</i>
Karl Evert	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Abigail Pribbenow	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, and Hospitality Ministry Teams,
and all who are serving.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Karl Starr and Christopher Haug
in celebration of the 90th birthday of sister-in-law Emma Hazel Harrison,
and in loving memory of nephew Christian Olaf Osen,
whose 35th birthday anniversary is this weekend.

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi
at 612-788-1288 or receptionist@centralmpls.org.

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