



Holy Communion

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 7, 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

Chorale Prelude on “Lo, How a
Rose E’er Blooming”

Setting, Johannes Brahms

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

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

From the blanket of darkness
The eye can see the light of a candle ten miles away.

**Ten miles away the eye grasps and holds that pinpoint of light –
One candle. Hope.**

But what we have been promised in our darkness
What has been pledged in our night
Is far more.

**What has been promised is the brilliance
Of a full dawning,
The explosive brightness
Of full day.**

Light - sum of all colors; Christ - sum of all existence
Streams extravagantly over the horizon
And pierces and pushes,

**and the hard and helpful night
relinquishes its place –
waiting to be called forth again.**



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

GATHERING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Hymn 264

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

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ 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. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ 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 ⁹ 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”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;



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

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ 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.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir sings once, then all repeat



Choir: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: Repeat Alleluia



GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ 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.’”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ 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? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ “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. ¹² 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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 249

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

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)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Lost in the Night”

*Lost in the night do the people yet
languish*

*Longing for morning the darkness to
vanquish,*

*Plaintively sighing with hearts full of
anguish,*

*Will not day come soon? Will not day
come soon?*

*Must we be vainly awaiting the
morrow?*

*Shall those who have light no light
let us borrow,*

Arr. Kyle Haugen

*Giving no heed to our burden of
sorrow?*

*Will you help us soon? Will you help
us soon?*

*Sorrowing wand’rers, in darkness yet
dwelling,*

*Dawned has the day of a radiance
excelling,*

*Death’s deepest shadows forever
dispelling.*

*Christ is coming soon! Christ is
coming soon!*



Scan to make a
financial offering.



*God feeds us with the
presence of Jesus Christ.*

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Hymn 726

Verse 2

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 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;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.*

Arr. Hugo Distler

*Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright
She bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.*

“Savior of the Nations Come”

Arr. Donna Hanna



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

(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.**

Sending

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 239

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Setting, Aaron David Miller

Serving Today

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>hospitality</i>
Julie Anderson	<i>assisting</i>
Carolyn Diamond	<i>reader</i>
Christopher McCarty	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensembles</i>
Bell Choir	
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist/bell choir director</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Karen Snyder	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

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

Chancel flowers this week are given by Connie and Dick Adair
in loving memory of their parents.

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

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Opening Sentences: Susan Palo Cherwien, "Crossings: Meditations for Worship"

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