

Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 21, 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

Ornamented Chorale Prelude on
"Savior of the Nations Come," BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

Let us look at this holy day we celebrate each year
in the middle of the cold and dark time,
The gray and sleeping time.

**In the middle of the season of seeming death and dormancy
we sing down birth.**

**In the midst of the season
we sing down stars.**

In the chill and hollow days of winter
we sing down love.

In the days of white and gray and black
We sing down red and green,

spring colors, birth colors, flower colors, growth colors.

**Even in the cold and dark time
spring can appear if only in a flash
if only for a twelfth-night
to remind us**

to remind us
that the divine can spring up
in unlikely places in unlikely times.



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

GATHERING HYMN
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

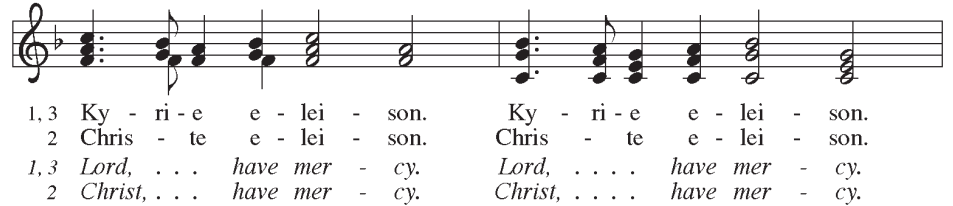
Hymn 263

GREETING

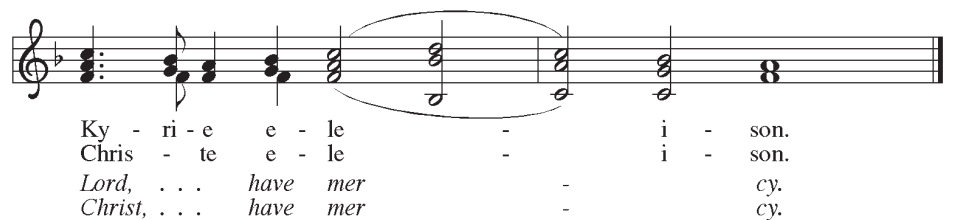
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

FIRST READING

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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



At the conclusion of the program there will be an opportunity for families to take photos of the children.

**Many African American spirituals and hymns were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. On weekends when Central uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, a donation will be made to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) as a reparation to their descendants. For 2025, Central will be sending donations to Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.*

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Children sing once, then all repeat



*Children: Mary will conceive and bear a son,
and they will name him Emmanuel.*

All: Repeat Alleluia

(Please be seated)

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord”

English Folk Tune,
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

“Away in a Manger”

James R. Murray

Please join in singing this carol with us:

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Hymn 290
Verse 3

(Please stand)

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.

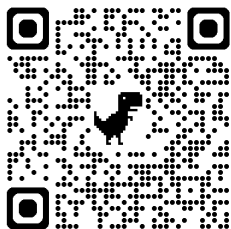
Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

“Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain”

Carolyn Jennings

*Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,
The Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord!*

*He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy truth,
Hope of all the nations
Light of all the world!*

*He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

-Isaiah 40, adapted by
Carolyn Jennings

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

Hymn 253

“He Came Down”

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.

“Sweet Was the Song”

René Clausen

*Sweet was the song that Mary sang, when she to Bethlehem came,
And was delivered of a Son, Christ Jesus was his name.
Sing lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby.*

*Sweet little baby, Jesus child, how still and peacefully you lie,
How could know your Father's will, Christ Jesus born to die.
Sing lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby.*

-Verse 1: Traditional English Carol; Verse 2: Frankie Clausen

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn 631

(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

Hymn 267

“Joy to the World”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Setting, Andrew Carter

Serving Today

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presider</i>	Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>stage managers</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>hospitality</i>	Kari Colchin	
Sam Friesen	<i>assisting</i>	Isaac Drewes	<i>organist/pianist</i>
Dick Shinofield	<i>reading</i>	Malaika Hussein	<i>readers</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>	William Olson	
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>	Samantha Robinson	
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>		
Karl Starr	<i>hosts</i>		
Christopher Haug			
Marie Wiegert	<i>healing prayers</i>		

Thanks to:

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

Chancel flowers this week are given in loving memory of Jim Snustad
who's 87th birthday would have been on December 25.

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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Prayer of the Day: Reproduced from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

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Gospel Acclamation Verse: Isaac Drewes

Text: The English translation of the Sanctus and Agnus Dei prepared by the English Language Consultation (ELLC), 1988.

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