

The Greatest Gift



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
LESSONS & CAROLS
14 DECEMBER 2025
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Third Sunday
In Advent
14 December 2025

Our Mission:
As God's forgiven family,
we grow in faith through
Word and Sacrament to
share the Gospel of
Jesus Christ.

WELCOME!

WE ARE HAPPY YOU WERE LED TO WORSHIP WITH US! IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN A LUTHERAN CHURCH, WE WANT YOU TO FEEL COMFORTABLE AND "AT HOME" IN OUR WORSHIP SETTING.

The Lord speaks to us through His Word and Sacrament and we respond with joy in song and prayer. This rhythm reflects our rich worship heritage built on the teachings of the Bible placing Jesus Christ at the center of all we do.

Check out the back of this bulletin for information on Bible Classes, upcoming events, how to get involved and more!

Holy Communion: CTK practices "close" communion. This expression means that all who receive the Sacrament believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine, and embrace the teachings of the Lutheran faith according to the Scriptures. If you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, we ask that you please contact one of the pastors prior to receiving the Sacrament. You are welcome to approach the altar with folded arms to receive a blessing.

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Listen to our worship service each Sunday at
9:00_{am} on WHBQ, 560AM.

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

AS WE GATHER Welcome to our Service of Lessons and Carols, an adaptation of the service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24 of every year. Today we focus on the Greatest Gift that is offered us in the form of Jesus, God's only Son. Each Scripture reading, carol, and choral piece will point us to that precious Gift and what it means to us for all eternity. God bless you and strengthen you in your faith through this service.

PRELUDE + "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

(from the back of the sanctuary)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Isaiah 9:2,6*

P: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

P: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder;

C: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, our true, unblemished Joy, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming. Shine Your light in us and through us that we may receive You with a humble and penitent heart and, with joyful adoration, remain steadfast in faith for You – our Hope, our Peace, our Joy – who, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns now and forever.

C: Amen.

(The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy are lit.)

SOLO

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness;
We greet with joy the gift of redemption; Come to us, little King.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Once in Royal David's City" *LSB 376 vv. 1-3*

**Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.**

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved of the Father, we now go in heart and mind to that city of Bethlehem where Peace and Love are made manifest in the birth of our Savior. It is our privilege to hear and to proclaim again the story of God's promise after the Fall, the fulfillment of that promise through the gift of His Son, and the redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Give us the words to speak His truth boldly and the compassion to show His love abundantly so that all mankind may share in the Good News of Jesus' birth and the joy of God's promise fulfilled.

C: May our words bring Light to a darkened world.

P: God's peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Father, we beseech You, deliver us from evil.

C: Have mercy on us, good Lord. For Jesus' sake, renew our hearts to be attentive to Your Word and cleanse us from our sin and guilt, and the foolish pride that stands in the way of our recognizing the Gift You give. This we ask in the name of your beloved son Jesus Christ.

P: Our Lord hears your pleas. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you of all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the Almighty God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- dwell in your hearts as you prepare for Christ's coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus!

RESPONSE LSB 376, v. 4

**Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!**

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

The Fall into sin by Adam and Eve signaled humanity's separation from God. But this tragic account ends with God's promise of an amazing gift—the promise that the woman's seed would defeat Satan and bring about our redemption.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

+ Choir “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” (arr. D. Forrest)

*Alleluia, Alleluia. See, amid the winter’s snow, Born for us, on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.” Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing, throughout Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.” Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-6

We hear a vivid symbolic description of the prophesied Gift more than 700 years before it was given.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *LSB* vs. 1, 4, 5, 7
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict-ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home:
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**

Third Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-33

*God's prophets foretold the new covenant, the Gift that would heal the separation between
God and man, in which people of all lands would acknowledge the Lord as sovereign.*

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

+ Choir “The Huron Carol” (arr. D. Forrest) *(The Huron Carol is a beautiful re-telling of the Christmas story by Jean de Breufeuf, one of the earliest French missionaries in Canada. Breufeuf's carol was written for the Huron Native Americans among whom he lived. The opening words “Jesous Ahatonhia” is Wendat/Huron for “Jesus is born.”)*

Jesous Ahatonhia, Jesous Ahatonhia. Gloria!

*‘Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
That God the Great Creator sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wand’ring hunters heard the hymn:
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”*

*Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp’d His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high.
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt, with gifts of fur and beaver pelt,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

*O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heav’n is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria!”*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

God's inscrutable ways are met in faith by believers. Just as Mary humbly accepted God's plan and marveled at it, so we, too, have faith and trust in our Lord to provide for us a plan of salvation through which our sins are wiped away.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

HYMN "The Angel Gabriel From Heav'n Came" *LSB 356*

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

The prophecy of a savior was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus as God became man and dwelt among us. The Gift was delivered to a world once doomed by sin.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

+ Choir “Away in a Manger” (W. Kirkpatrick; arr. R. Field)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

HYMN “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” LSB 393

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:

Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Neither the angels nor the shepherds could keep silent about the astonishing news of the birth of the Savior, the Gift from God to His people.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on

earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HOMILY

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

OFFERING + Choir “Silent Night” (*arr. D. Forrest*)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child: Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heav’nly peace, Sleep in heav’nly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light,

Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Jesus, Wondrous star, lend Thy light.

With the angels let us sing “Alleluia to our King,

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

OFFERTORY “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *LSB 361 vs 1, 3*

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-11*

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI

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

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION

+ String Quartet “What Child Is This?”

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” *LSB* 366

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.**

**All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.**

Text: Public domain

“Angels From the Realms of Glory” *LSB* 367

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

(Please stand for the Holy Trinity)

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!**

Text: Public domain

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” LSB 353

**Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.**

**Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.**

**Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.**

**Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.**

Text: Public domain

Seventh Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

We pray for full knowledge and understanding of God’s greatest Gift so that we may confidently spread the Good News and one day join with all of mankind in giving glory to Him, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is indeed Lord of all.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and

bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C: Amen. Let it be so.

BENEDICTION *(From John 1:1-14)*

P: Secure in the promise of God's unending sovereignty, may God – the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End – be with you and in you from your first breath to your final sigh...

May God who created all things, who gave life to all beings, lead you out of darkness into the path of Light,

May the Light of Christ shine through you, may you receive Him and believe in Him, and may He bestow on you the name of "children of God," giving to you His rich inheritance of life eternal.

C: We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. All praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" *LSB 340*

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing,
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**

**A righteous Helper comes to thee: His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown in holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**

**How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**

**Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee, here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

POSTLUDE + String Quartet “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”



In our prayers this week: Kathie Jenkins, Kim Weidenhamer, John Mewbourn, Margo McKee, Gene Mallett, Marsha & Norman Mundinger, Noah Rhoden, Floyd Bearly, Mark Lemley, Violet Lakatos, Dylan Bruns, Bruce Forsythe, Jeff & Ellen Strum, Sally Hornish Malmi, Lori Nogueira, Julie Bourie, Stephanie Dublin, Zachary Rakow, Leigh Wilson, Chuck Fields, Zane Brooks, Tamara Scott, Sarah Gaddie, Liz Kiley, Diane Conry, Lisa Chapman & family, Sarah Meyerrose, Jeff & Cheryl Harrell, Judy Jacquez, Wilber Brown, Ross & Jackie Butler, Norma & Tom Moore, Jean & Cliff Gorham, Howard Troyer, Lorna Schmidt, Randy Lusk, Norm Rodriguez, Sophie Baker, Norma Gullett, Jan Mathis, Brandy White, Rebekah Andrews, Eloise Gaia, Glenda Wade, Wesley Summers, Sr.. Bless and guide our Call Committee.

The Altar flowers last week were given by:

Hubert Dellinger remembering my friend, Rev. Elmer Callies

Sign up for a vase of Altar Flowers by going to bit.ly/CTKAltarFlowers2025 or contact the Church Office and we'll sign you up! Each vase is \$35.

If you are a first-time visitor with us today, welcome! Please stop by the Information Desk in the narthex after the service so we can greet you with a gift of thanks for being with us today. May God bless your worship.

Those Who Serve

Proclaimer Rev. Mark Goble
Liturgist Rev. Matthew Lynch
Organist Michella Novy
Candle Lighting Soloist: Cooper Smith
Elders Kevin Baskette, Nathan Eldridge
Reader Chuck Hodges
Torchbearers Brenner Magness
Christopher Tieman
Acolyte Jack Bennett
Crucifer John Wilson
Choir Director & Accompanist: Chris Cardona
String Quartet:
Violin 1 Esther Humphries
Violin 2 Whitney Woodson
Viola Kenneth Gillespie
Cello John Brown
Greeters Don & Carol Owens, Bill Maclin
Ushers Mike Watson, James Lewis, Kevin
Washburn, Alex Weiss, Parker
Magness
Sound Walt Kosman, Murph Ellard, Kim
Goble, Jim Hofer, Peter Cothron,
Aaron Winter
Live Streaming Lisa Salzgeber

CALENDAR

Today

- Reception, 11:00_{am}, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 15

- Room in the Inn, Host: Colonial Park
- Faith in Action, 5:45_{pm}, Panera G'town

Tuesday, December 16

- Men's Bible Study, 7:00_{am}, Parlour
- Nehemiahs, 8:00_{am}
- Griefshare, 2:00_{pm}, Room 202
- Room in the Inn, Host: CTK
- Andrews Small Group, 7:00_{pm}

Wednesday, December 17

- Adult Bible Study, 10:00_{am}, Room 201
- Room in the Inn, Host: St. Louis Catholic
- Advent Dinner, 5:30_{pm}, Fellowship Hall
- Advent Worship, 6:30_{pm}
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:15_{pm}

Thursday, December 18

- CTK School K-8 Christmas program, 6:00_{pm}, Sanctuary
- Woodworking, 7:00_{pm}, Workshop

Friday, December 19 No scheduled events

Saturday, December 20

- Christmas Caroling at the Ciel, 10:00_{am}
- Comfort Dog Christmas Party, 11:30_{am}

When we first came here, we could not have imagined how amazing and blessed our time would be. There are not enough thank yous we could say to show our gratitude but we're going to try. Thank you, first and foremost, to the Bettin family. You have provided everything that we needed while in Memphis and so many more wonderful things you didn't have to. We felt loved and cared for every moment of every-day and have loved being a part of your family for the past 2 months. Next, thank you to our cooperating teachers and staff of Christ the King. Your guidance and support has helped us to finish strong through this last part of our student teaching experience, and we have appreciated all the moments and memories we have shared. Lastly, thank you to the Christ the King church community. You all have opened your doors and your hearts to us. It has been such a blessing and a joy to be a part of your community and worship with you all, even if it is for a short time. We hope our paths cross again, but if they never do, we can't wait to see you all, again, in Heaven!

Blessings from the student teachers,
Bella, Bethany, and Mo

Today you are invited to take several "Christmas Invitation Cards" to share with your community friends and helpers to invite them to CTK's Christmas services. It's an easy way to reach out and make that first move toward sharing your faith and your church at Christmas. Additional cards will be available if you run out!

Men’s Breakfast
January 10 @ 9:00am

Come for a hearty breakfast and more financial topics: Brief recap of Retirement 1; Selling your home; Will vs Trust; Annuities; Investment tips for younger guys; Reverse Mortgages. A sign up is in the Rotunda or email Gary at garyosing@gmail.com.

2025 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to express our gratitude for your continued financial support to CTK and her ministries! If you plan to receive Federal Tax credit for 2025, all year end contributions should be in the offering plate on Sunday, December 28.

GriefShare

GriefShare meets each Tuesday afternoon at 2:00pm in Room 202. This support group offers a safe place to understand grief, learn healthy ways to cope, and receive support. Open to anyone in the community. For details, call the Church Office.

