**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2023**

**9:30am**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

Preschool 562-594-6117

[www.clclb.com](http://www.clclb.com)

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

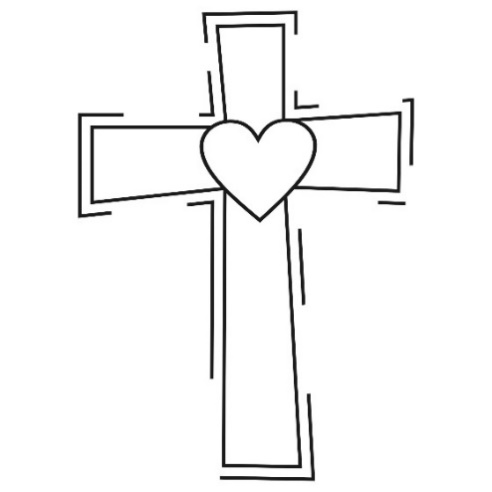
**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.



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**PRELUDE**  Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire.**

**Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE SONG** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verse 2*

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:

in strength and beauty come and stay, teach us your will and guide our way.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God, **you love justice, and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation

and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Prepare the Royal Highway #264*

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**\*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.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Canticle of the Turning*



**\*pRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together. *A brief silence***. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** *After this time, children will be invited to Sunday school. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 40:1-11 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 740

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 601

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
 **2You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.  
Selah** 8Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,  
 to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
 **9Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.** 10Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
**11Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**  
 12The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.  
 **13Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

A sheet music with notes and words

Description automatically generated\***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *He Came Down ELW 253*

**\*GOSPEL** [Mark](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2023-6-4/2415) 1:1-8 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 35

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Steve Beckham

**\*SERMON SONG** *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming #272*

**\*Nicene CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY** *This Little Light of Mine* Chancel Choir

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Give Thanks*

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together: **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**MEAL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*THE 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, our duty and our joy…

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

…with this bread and cup, we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**…**Word made flesh, Power of the Most high, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table. **Amen.**





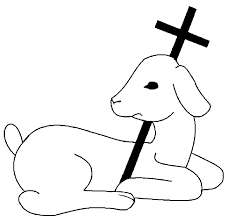
**lamb of god**

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**COMMUNION SONG** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240*



**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **Generous God, in this bread and cup you have revealed your glory, for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**SENDING\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING** **SONG** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry #249*

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**  Rev. Laurie Arroyo, lauriethere@msn.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**Percussionist** Nathan Latiolait

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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