**Epiphany**

**January 5, 2025**

**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.clplb.com](http://www.clplb.com/)

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

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansrise in body or spirit,

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

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

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together.

We offer a “pray-ground” located in the back left of the Sanctuary for those with littles to have some room for movement and activity. The Narthex (gathering space at the entry) also has some resources for families, including activity bags filled with crayons, paper and storybooks. These supplies can be used in the Narthex or brought into the Sanctuary. For those that find themselves in the Narthex, there is a speaker with which you can still hear the service. Lastly, a changing table is located in the restroom off the Narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Worship services for Christ Lutheran Church- Long Beach

are live-streamed and archived to YouTube.

By entering the sanctuary and by your presence here,

you consent to be photographed,

filmed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Please alert an usher if this is of concern to you.

Our liturgy is taken from:

Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20338.

Reprinted by permission under CCLI license # 230154. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under © 2024 One License #A-706154. All rights reserved.

*© Church Anew. Used with Permission.*

**PRELUDE** Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,

☩ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Rise, Shine You People ELW #665*

*(Verses 1,2 & 4)*

A sheet music with text and words

Description automatically generated

**\*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.**

**\*pRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together,

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 CHAT**

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

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible Old Testament Pg.766

**SECOND READING**  Ephesians 3:1-12Pew Bible New Testament Pg.205

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

A sheet of music with notes

Description automatically generated**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia ELW Pg.188*

**\*GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 2

The Gospel comes from Matthew the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON** Pastor Nikki Fielder

**\*SERMON HYMN** *The First Noel ELW 300*

*(verses 1, 2, 4, 5)*

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

**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.**

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** Roger Halvorson

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *We Are an Offering W&P #146*

Chorus 1

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

Bridge

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

Chorus 2

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together,

**God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. 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** *Love Has Come ELW #292*

*(Verse 1)*



**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

…Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

…All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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 wafers are available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest to let us know to give you that blessing.

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**lamb of god** *Lamb of God**ELW pg.191*

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated

**COMMUNION SONG** *Lord, Now Let Your Servant ELW #313*

A sheet music with text

Description automatically generated

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together,

**Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING** **SONG** *Shine, Jesus, Shine ELW #671*

Verse 1

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shineFill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

Verse 3

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me (Chorus)

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson



Reflection Questions continued

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nikki Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

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

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

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

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technicians** Brad Croes and Josh Baker

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**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.

**A heart shaped logo with a cross

Description automatically generated**

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

**Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Welcome Statement**

Christ Lutheran Church is a congregation who joyfully welcomes everyone who enters our doors. We recognize that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's children, welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space. We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

**LIKE** us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb](http://www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb)

Write a review of Christ Lutheran Church on **YELP**