



## **Christ Lutheran Community Church**

**November 28, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMES OF THE DAY**

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

# THE GATHERING

*Gather in prayer and prepare to receive God's Word.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*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 alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

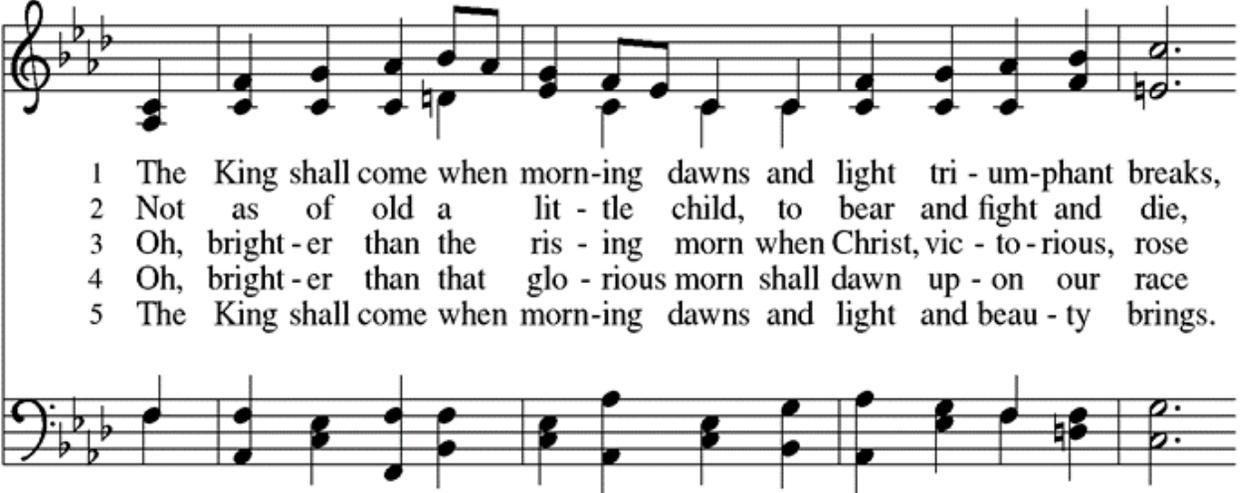
Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

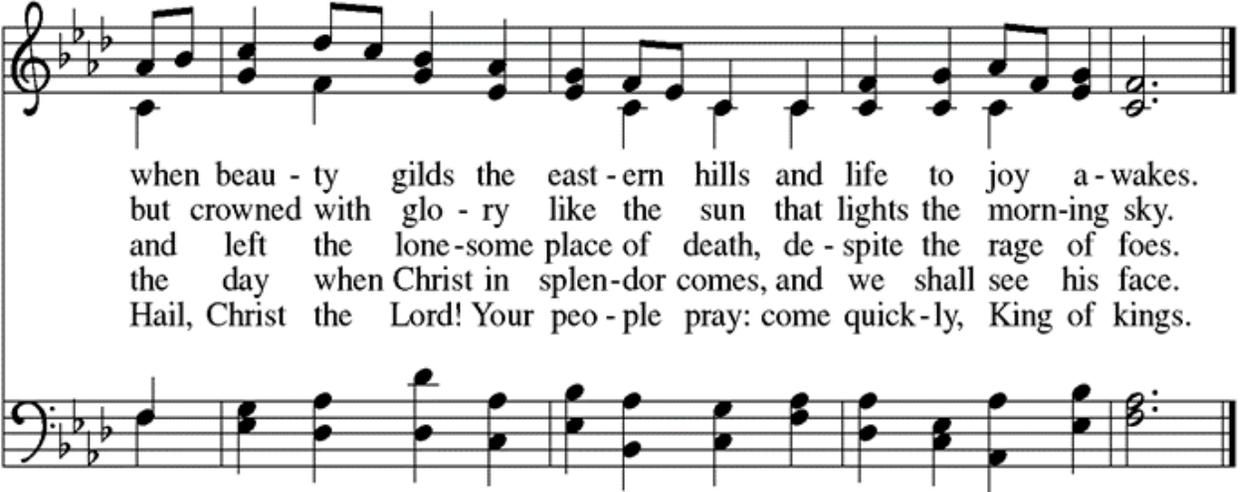
God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

# The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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## GREETING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*After lighting the wreath, all are invited to sing verse one of "He Came Down"*

# He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, with several triplet markings. The bass clef accompaniment uses chords and single notes, also featuring triplet markings. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## THE WORD

*We read scriptures together to hear God speaking to our community today. Two or more scriptures are read because no single word can embody the fullness of truth contained within God's Word.*

**FIRST READING:**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel*

*for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

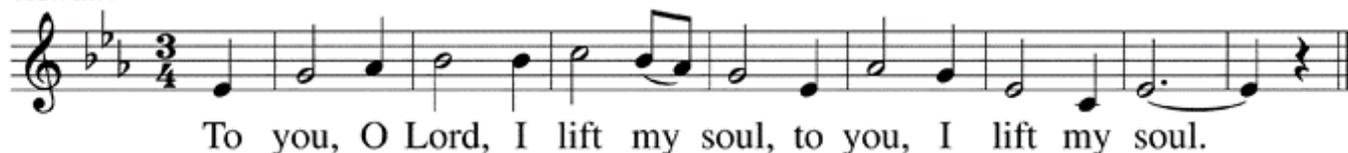
Word of God, Word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## PSALM 25

### Psalm 25: To You, O Lord

Refrain



Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander, gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love, God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

## SECOND LESSON:

## 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that

we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

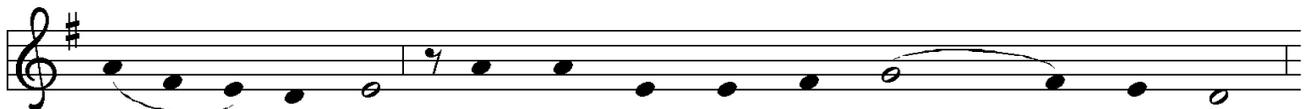
**Thanks be to God.**

## “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” - VERSE 1

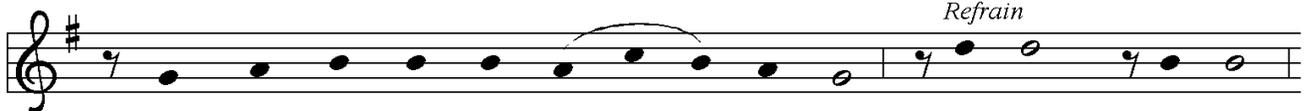
### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## GOSPEL

## Luke 21:25-36

*Please Stand. By tradition, we stand during the readings of the Gospels, remembering that they speak of Christ, who is the center of*

*our faith.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **BAPTISMS OF BLAKE AVERY WILLIAMS, CAMINA ELIZBETH DUNN, AND CURTISSA EDEN DUNN**

*During the baptism, all are invited to confess their faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

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

**earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

**CONFIRMATION OF JOANITA MENSAH**

**RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP OF CLARA ADAMS**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind, especially Pat, Louise, Barbara, Nettie, Richard, Eveline, Bill, Carrie, Darryl, Mary Ellen, Rene, Tony, Joan, Penny, Kathryn, Victor, Jacob and Willa, Theo, Claude, Richard, Doreen, Ron, Samuel, Andrea, Henry, Carolyn,Smarty, Yaa, Yaa, Samuel, and Peggy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*All who wish to support the ministries of the church here in Upper Darby and around the world are invited to place their offering in the basket at the back of the church as they leave. Those who gather online are invited to make contributions by mail or internet. We pray in thanksgiving for all God enables us to do.*

Let us pray: God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

## **THE MEAL**

*Sharing the Lord's Supper is how we celebrate the presence of the risen Christ among us. Christ shared this meal with his disciples before laying down his life for them. After Christ's resurrection, his disciples have continued to break bread and share the cup as a way of receiving Christ and participating in his Body.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**

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,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heav-en 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, ho-san - na, ho-san-  
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na, ho-san-  
na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Ho-san-  
na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/2 time signature. It begins with a four-measure rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*After the pastor has recounted God's saving acts, all are invited to pray:*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins  
of the world, have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

*All who desire to commune with Christ through the sharing of this meal are invited to come forward and receive the blessed bread and the wine. When receiving Communion, extend your hand, palm up, to receive the wafer of bread; to receive the wine (through intinction) dip the wafer into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's Supper, approach the altar with your arms crossed over your chest.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

*Having been fed by the life-giving Word of God, we are sent into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ, continuing his ministry of healing, forgiveness, liberation, and reconciliation.*

# SENDING HYMN

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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