



**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Sunday, December 10, 2017



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**C: Amen.**

*Candles on the Advent Wreath are lit*

*The second candle on the Advent Wreath is called the Bethlehem candle. It is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.*

R: Two candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness from light. Two candles, glowing light, the blessings of God, giving new sight. We pray dear God, in this very busy season with so many things to do, help us to hear your voice calling us to prepare the way for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Call us to repentance. Live in us by your Spirit that our lives will produce good fruit to the praise and honor of your name.

**C: Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to kneel or sit*

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

**C: We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**ELW 254**

## GREETING

ELW pg. 203

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

C: And also with you.

## KYRIE

ELW pg. 203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

see insert

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

*The congregation is invited to sit*

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

see insert

L: The first lesson is from Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are

grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: 85:1-2, 8-13**

see insert

**TONE**



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<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to  
you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

## SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

see insert

L: The second lesson is from 2 Peter the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg.205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

**see insert**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation is invited to sit*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**CHILDREN DISMISSED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Jeff Steeber**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

**ELW 256**

## **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 INTERCESSION

ELW pg.206

A: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

*A brief silence*

A: We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit *especially...* Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to sit*

**OFFERING**      **“Oh Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort”**      **Sanctuary Choir**

*The congregation is invited to stand*

**OFFERING PRAYER**     *The pastor will lead the offering prayer*     **ELW pg.107**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW pg.206**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

P: 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**

**ELW pg.207**

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

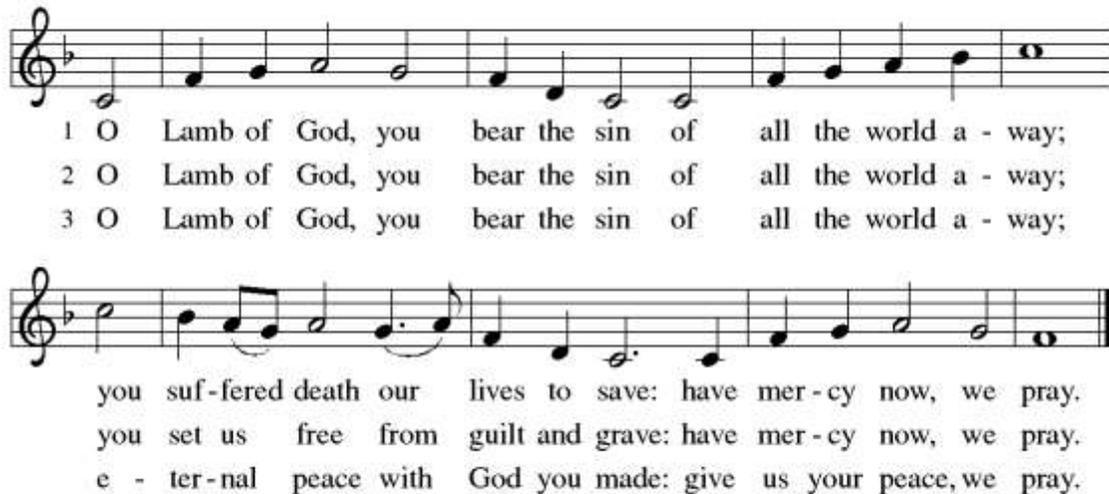
## LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg.208

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg.208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*The congregation is invited to sit*

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

“Choose to Hope”

see insert

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW 239

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

ELW 249

*The congregation is invited to stand*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW pg.114

## BLESSING

ELW pg.114

## SENDING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

ELW 314

## DISMISSAL

ELW pg.115

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