



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday, December 11, 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement: *“Gospel In Action: Caring for all God’s children, we shall serve God through worship, learning, and sharing.”*

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship - Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) is a congregation of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran community. Our order for worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin. We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of long standing, we celebrate your gifts and ministry.

New to CELC - We are happy to have you with us and we wish you a warm welcome. If you would like more information about our church and its ministries, please look for a member of the Welcoming Team by the TV after the service for information and a gift. Please take a few minutes to view the announcements displayed on the TV in the gathering area.

For those with children - We encourage you to have your children participate in worship. They learn about worship and faith by being involved. If you or your children need a break, we have a nursery room available with your supervision. If you need assistance, an usher will happily direct you to the nursery. Coloring and activity bags are available just outside the sanctuary doors.

Holy Communion - The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week at CELC. All are welcome to receive this gift of God's grace, love, and forgiveness. All who hunger to know the love of God are welcome to commune with us. The table of our Lord is now set for all those who need grace, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom for ministry and mission to the world. If you are unable to come forward, Holy Communion can be brought to your seat. If you wish to come forward to receive a blessing, you are encouraged to do so. Gluten-free crackers and grape juice are available for those with dietary needs. If you have questions about the sacrament, or if you wish to receive instruction on the Christian faith, you are invited to speak with Pastor Jeff following the service.

Worship Assistants

Greeter: Owens Family, **Usher:** Tony Toy, **Acolytes:** Connor Kacenjar, Julia Kacenjar, **Cantor:** Bethany Pearce, **Assists:** Cantor, Anne Paine, Karen Wagner, Acolytes, **Altar:** Marilyn Culler, **Bread:** Stacy Jantz

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

The congregation is invited to stand

INVOCATION

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.

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

The congregation is invited to stand, kneel or sit in silence for reflection and self-examination. Candles on the Advent Wreath are lit during this time of reflection.

The third candle on the Advent Wreath is called the Shepherd's candle. It remembers the first in a long line of people who joyfully shared the good news of the Savior's birth. The candle is reminding us that our period of waiting is half over.

R: Three candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness from light. Three candles, glowing light, the blessings of God, giving new sight. Dear God, with joy and praise we acknowledge the signs that your kingdom has come in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sin. We rejoice that you have made us new creatures in Christ. With joy we commit ourselves to the proclamation of the good news of great joy. In the Savior's name we pray.

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of all time,

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:

Hark, the Glad Sound! ELW 239

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

C: To prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” 7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

The congregation is invited to sit

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA



A Candlelight Christmas: A Cantata by Benjamin Harlan

I- PROMISE OF THE LIGHT

Prepare Ye the Way
Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Canticle of Mary

II- COMING OF THE LIGHT

A Joyful Gloria
Child of the Light

III- PROCLAIMING THE LIGHT

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Carol of Light

IV- SHARING THE LIGHT

Of the Father's Love

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence

A: For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God; that all divisions and disagreements cease, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the earth and its creatures, for animals of every size, for plants that provide shade and nourishment; that we see God's goodness revealed in every living thing, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the nations and those in authority, for police officers and firefighters, for social workers and attorneys; that God grant them wisdom to work for peace and justice, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the poor, the meek, the unwelcomed, those suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS, the sick and the bereaved especially... that they experience Christ embodied in healthcare workers and caregivers, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For those traveling and those absent from this gathering, for those serving in the military, for those preparing for baptism, and for our congregation; that in all we do we praise and glorify God, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who have died in Christ; that they show us the way of hope through the incarnate Word, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

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

Christmas Bell Suite

Bell Choir

The congregation is invited to stand

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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



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:	<i>All the Earth Is Hopeful</i>	ELW 266
	<i>Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers</i>	ELW 244
	<i>People, Look East</i>	ELW 248

The congregation is invited to stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538

DISMISSAL

A: Sisters and Brothers in Christ...

C: As the Gospel in action, go in peace. Christ is with you! Thanks be to God!

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SERMON NOTES