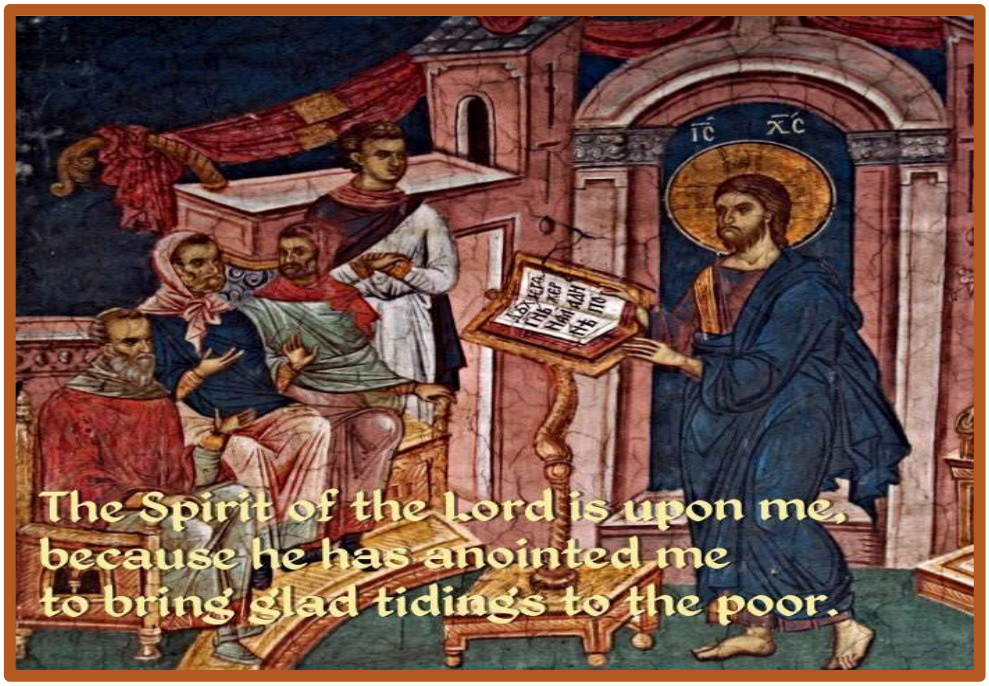
Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Pastor's Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Invocation: (*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may love You and magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation *Psalm 51:1-4; 15-17*

P: Have mercy on me, O God; according to Your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit; a broken and contrite heart, God, you will not despise.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

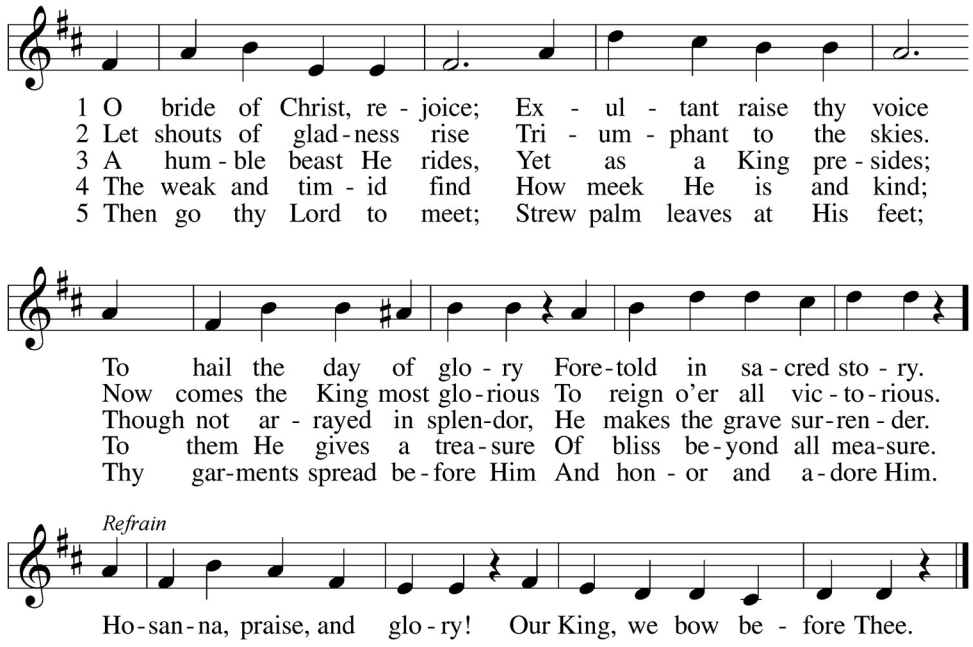
ABSOLUTION

John 20:21

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN O BRIDE OF CHRIST, REJOICE *LSB 335 STS.1-5*



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THE KYRIE *LSB 168*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

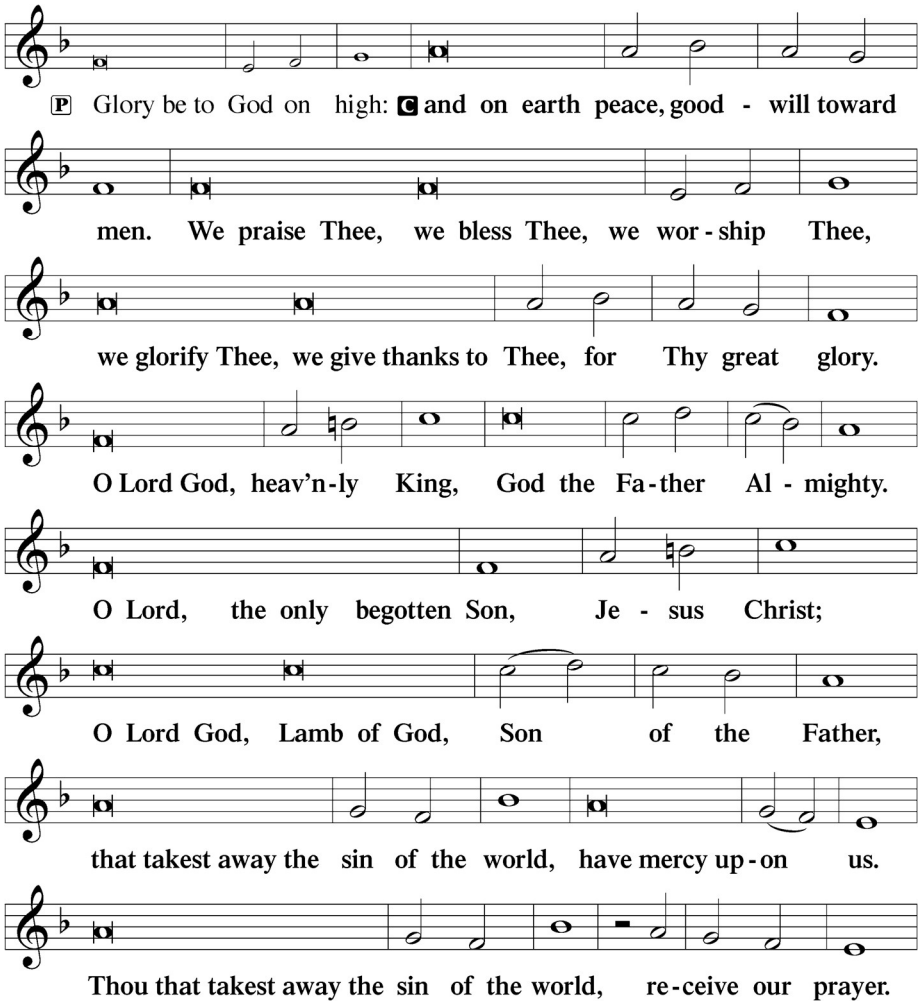
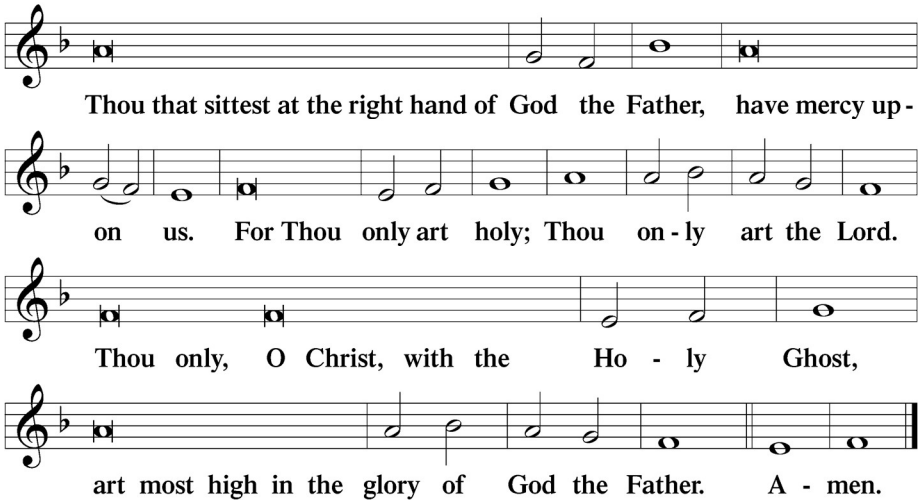
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 61:1–4, 8–11

Reader: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its

sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

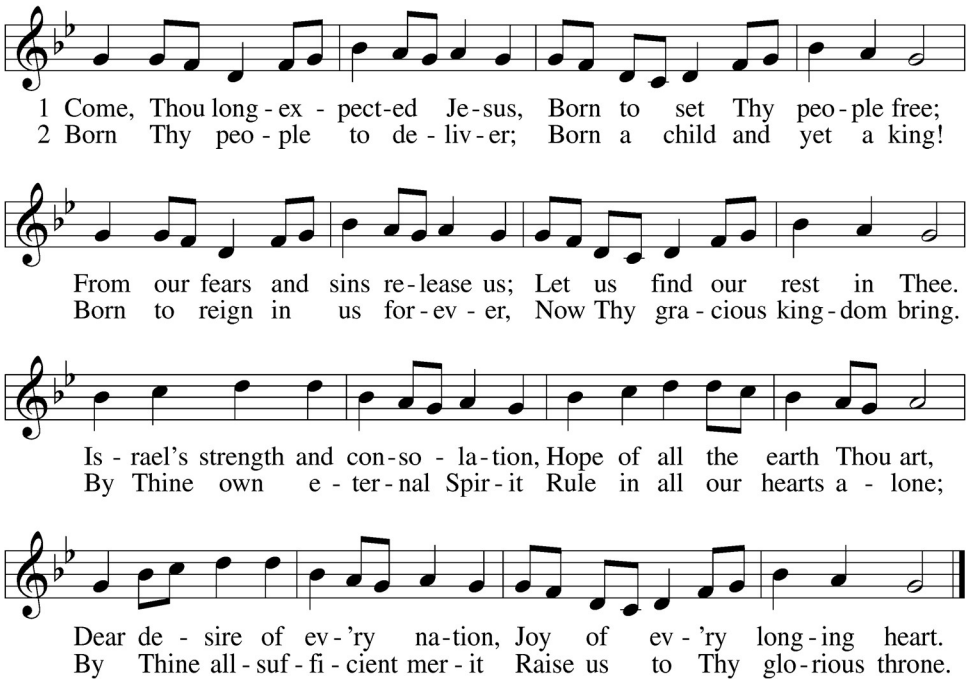
C: Thanks be to God!

THE GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9a, Psalm 118:26a*

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

HYMN COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS LSB 338



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THE EPISTLE READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–24

Reader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 156*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to John 1:6–8, 19–28

C: Glory to You O Lord!

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

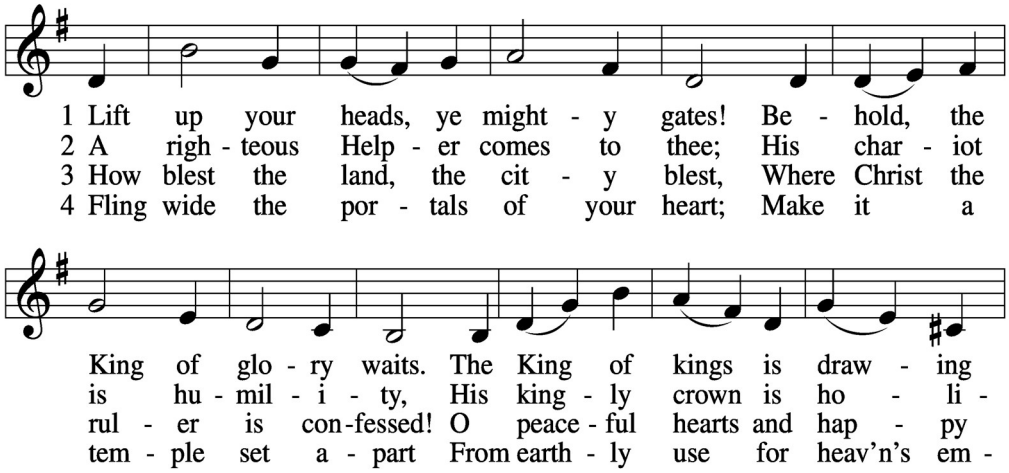
This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

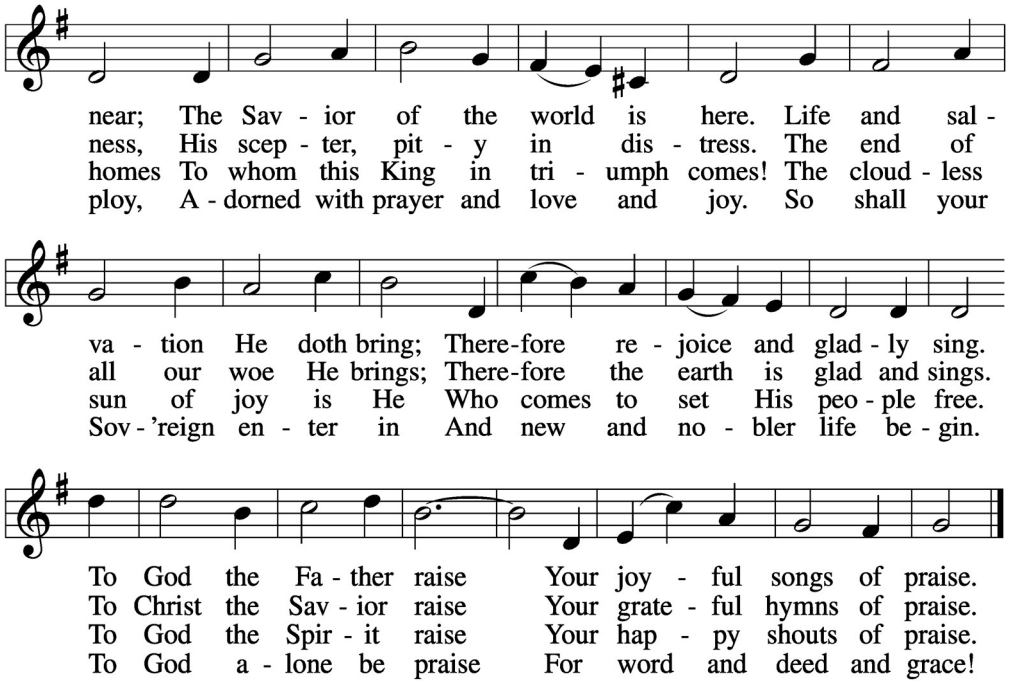
(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES *LSB 341 STS.1-4*





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SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation! Keep Your saints from every folly that would turn them from Your words of peace. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless our Synod president, Rev. Matthew Harrison; our district president, Rev. Jamison Hardy; our circuit visitor, Rev. Nick Wirtz; and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Dear Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Sanctify them completely, that their whole spirit, soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Give wisdom and success to our nation and its leaders. Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us and those newly elected. Preserve our land and its citizens in peace and harmony and protect all who serve in harm's way. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our thanks in every circumstance for Your kindness in Christ Jesus and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Him. We pray especially for Gerri, Inge, Lisa, Carrie (teacher), and all those we name in our hearts: _____ _____. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Give us faith to believe the New Testament in Your blood, to seek Your Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and to confess Your truth with honest hearts in communion with one another at this altar today. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

All: 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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P: Gracious Father, as we wait for the second Advent of Your beloved Son to judge the living and the dead, keep us vigilant so that our hearts would be ever be ready to receive Him in honor and joy with words of acclaim Hosanna, blessed is Him who comes in the Name of our God. Thank you for gathering us in this place to be fed by Your Word and by Your Son's very Body and Blood. Let Your peace be upon our hearts embracing everything You have taught us so that we may bear the fruits of faith in our lives. Grant that the Light of Christ shine before us to the glory of Your Holy name. This we pray through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever:

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

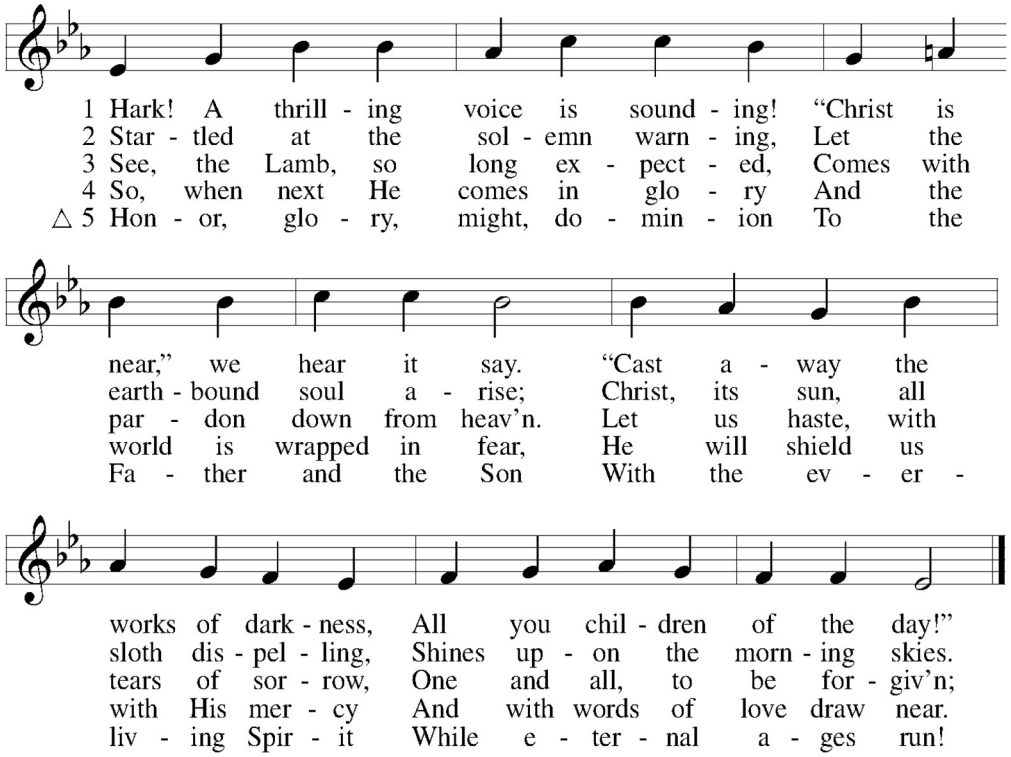
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING *LSB 345 STS.1-5*



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Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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Serving at Family of Christ

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Inessa Leip

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Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/9 – 12/20

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship *(Congregational meeting directly following service for the election of officers and other church matters.)*

11:00AM Bible Study on Luther's Large Catechism

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Advent Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Upcoming

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00PM on Thursday, December 24th.

PLEASE NOTE*: Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Please remember: The Church is collecting men's and women's socks, puzzle books and pens and pencils for the residents at La Estancia Nursing home. You may leave your donations in the box in the Narthex. We will deliver after December 16th.