Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"I stand in the Presence of God"

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE
DECEMBER 2, 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: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

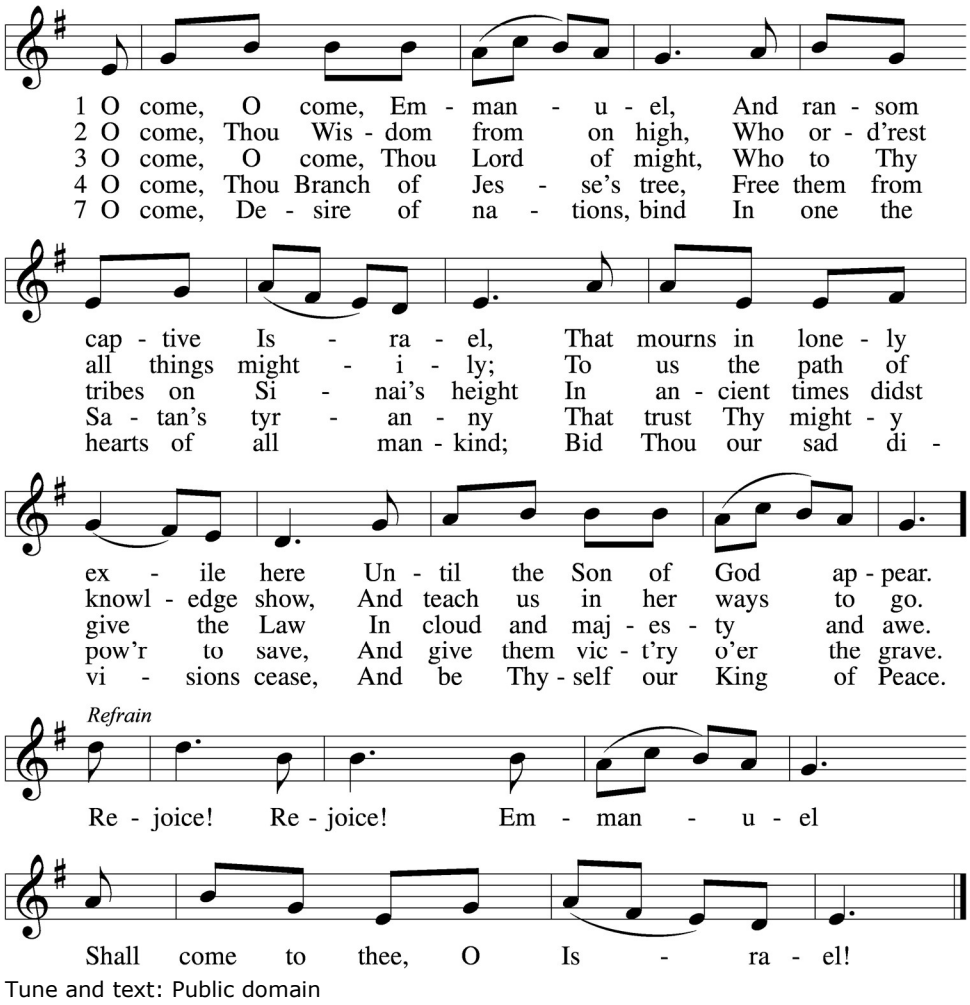
C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

OPENING HYMN **O COME, O COME EMMANUEL** **LSB 357 *STS.* 1-4,7**

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PHOS HILARON (HYMN OF LIGHT) *LSB 244*

P: Joyous light of glory:

C: of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT *LSB 245*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and with your spirit.

P: *Let us pray*: Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful,

and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE GRADUAL *Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A Reading from the Holy Gospel of St Luke the 1st Chapter.

P: In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him *an angel of the Lord* standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, *who stands in the presence of God,* and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a

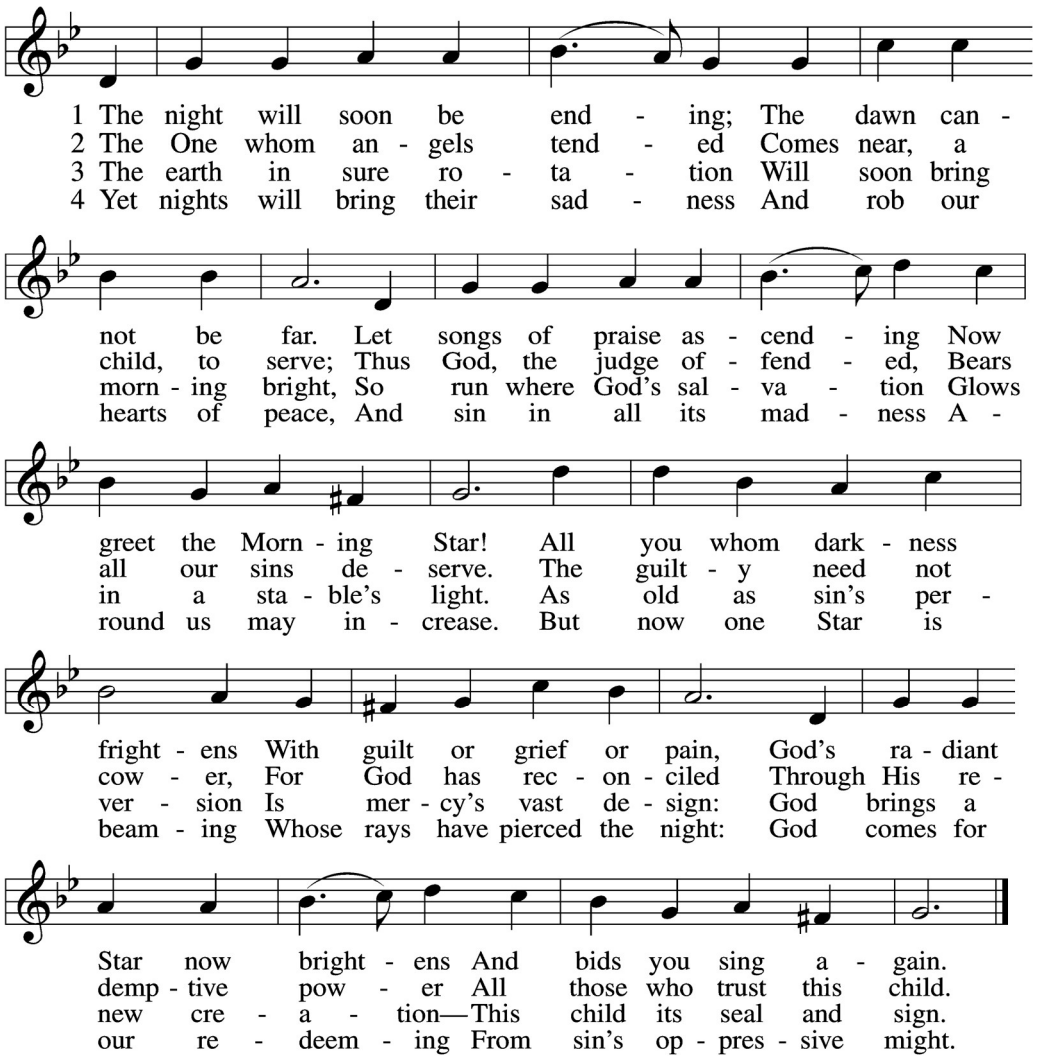
vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SERMON HYMN **THE NIGHT WILL SOON BE ENDING** ***LSB 337 STS.1-4***



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SERMON ***"ANGELS, MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL"***

THE APOSTLES CREED

P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. 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.

LITANY

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from

rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

C: **Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: **Help us, good Lord.**

P: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: **Help us, good Lord.**

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: **to hear us, O Lord.**

P: To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living; -- To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; -- To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; -- To direct and defend our President Donald Trump, The Congress and Senate, the Justice dept. and our Governor and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; -- To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; -- To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; -- To defend all orphans and widows and provide for them; -- To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; -- To free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: **we implore You to hear us.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

P: Taught by our Savior we are bold to pray:

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.

MAGNIFICAT *LSB 231*

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior**;**

C: for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

P: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

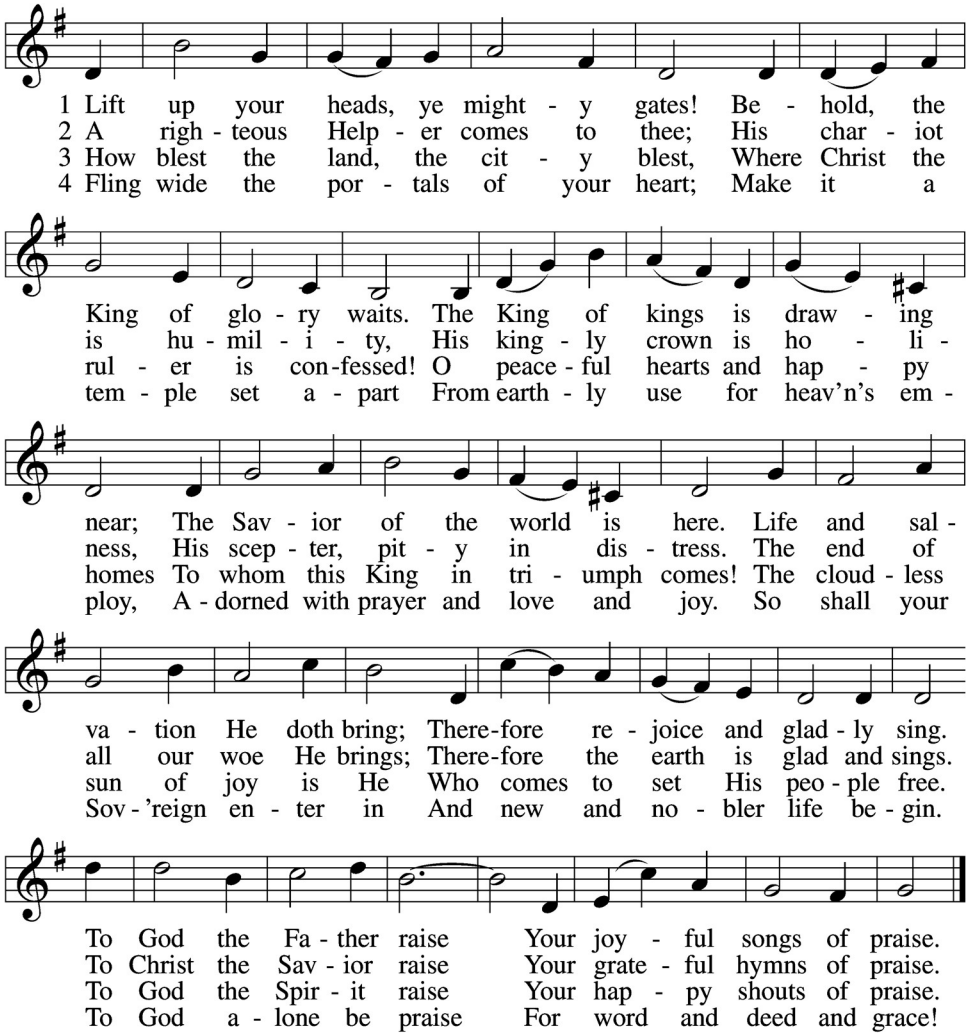
P: Let us bless the Lord.

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

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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

12/2 – 12/9

Today

6:00PM Mid-week Advent Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Next Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Advent Service

Upcoming

Wednesday Evening Advent Service will be at 6:00PM on December 16th.

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.