Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife"

Wednesday Advent Service

December 16, 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.

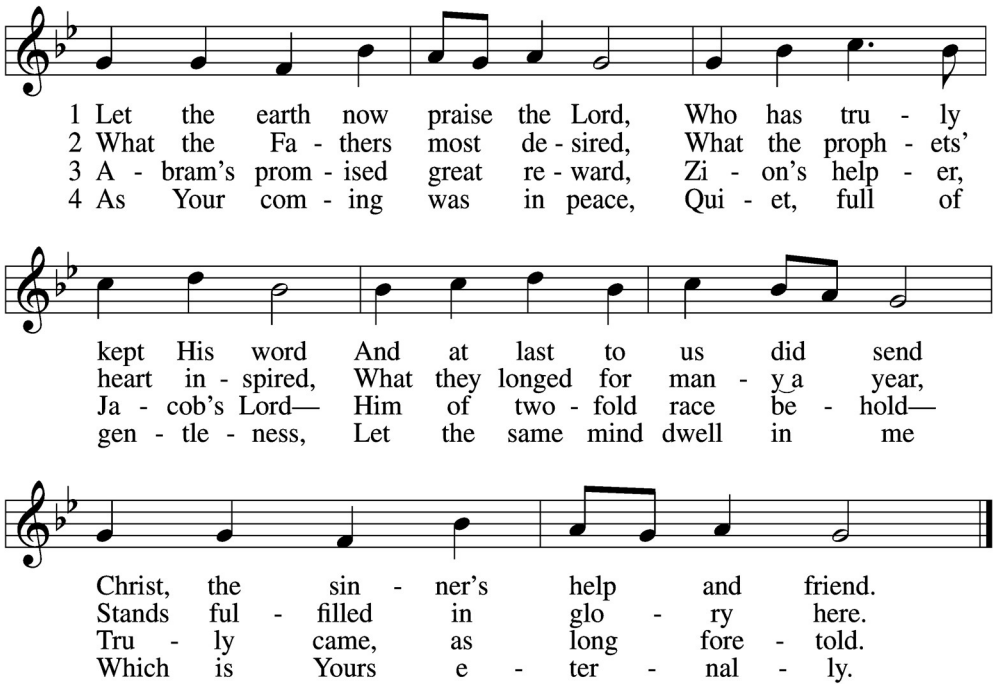
P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

OPENING HYMN LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD *LSB 352 STS.1-4*



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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*: O Lord God, who from the family of Your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the spouse of His virgin mother: Grant us grace to imitate his righteousness of life and his obedience to Your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM 2 SAMUEL 7:11-17

Reader: "'Moreover, the LORD, declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he

shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

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 Matthew the, 1st Chapter.

P: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SERMON HYMN THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS *LSB 348 STS.1-5*

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!

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SERMON ***"Joseph, Do Not be Afraid"***

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 department 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* *Luke 1:46-55*

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.

All: 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 ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING *LSB 333 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
12/16 – 12/25

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 Luther's Large Catechism

Thursday, December 24th
5:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service
10:00PM Christmas Eve Service of the Light

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 plan to deliver on Friday, December 18th.