

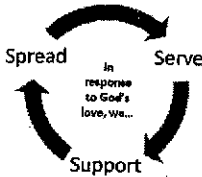
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people*

Volume 74

December 9, 2018

No. 49

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Worship –9 AM

AS WE GATHER – Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to "make His paths straight" by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

PRESERVICE MUSIC "Hark the Glad Sound"

by Jeffrey Blersch

WELCOME

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

[♯Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

♯OPENING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Based on Luke 3:4-6

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.* **C** **Amen.**
- P** *Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!* **C** **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** *Prepare the way of the Lord.* **C** **Make His paths straight.**
- P** *Every valley shall be filled,*
C **and every mountain and hill made low.**
- P** *The crooked shall become straight,*
C **and the rough places shall become level ways.**
- P** *All flesh shall see the salvation of God.*
C **We wait for Christ's return and the resurrection of all flesh.**
- P** *Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!*
C **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1-2

- P** *In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence, how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility.*

[Silence for reflection.]

- P** *Heavenly Father,*
C **we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our neighbors with injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?**
- P** *As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C **Amen. "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!"**

INTROIT

Ps. 81:8, 10-11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b

- P** *The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*
C **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."**
- P** *Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*
C **O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**
- P** *I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*
C **Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- P** *But my people did not listen to my voice;*
C **Israel would not submit to me.**
- P** *Oh, that my people would listen to me,*
C **that Israel would walk in my ways!**

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.

- P** *The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*
C **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der With sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** *The Lord be with you.* **C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Let us pray.*

All: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.* **C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Let us share this peace with one another.*

(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Malachi 3:1-7b

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- L** *This is the Word of the Lord.* **C** **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 1:2-11

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- L** *This is the Word of the Lord.* **C** **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is
 called Em - man - u - el. God with us,
 re-vealed in us! His name is called Em-man - u - el.

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ALLELUIA VERSE

Luke 3:4b, 6

All: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

Glory to You, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
 that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in; And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
 for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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SERMON

"APPROVE WHAT IS EXCELLENT"

Philippians 1:2-11

- I. Paul exhorts us this morning to "approve what is excellent."
- II. This involves giving thanks for the gift of the church, being confident in God's Word and showing God's love to our neighbors.

APOSTLE'S CREED

- C** 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 there 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.

OFFERING

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

by Kevin Hildebrand

OFFERTORY

Create In Me a Pure Heart

Randall Haedge

CHESTERFIELD

Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820



1 Cre - ate in me a pure heart Lord A spir - it
 2 Re - store to me sal - va - tion's joy Your Ho - ly



new with - in O cast me not a - way from
 Spir - it breathe With - in my heart to grant me



You, But cleanse me from my sin.
 grace Up - hold me, Spir - it free.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Luke 19:38

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, as we prepare the way for Christ to come, we proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- C** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- P** Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our failures, for "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" **C** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- P** Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee. Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" **C** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- P** Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us, [especially . . .]. Strengthen them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. "Blessed is the King who comes in

the name of the Lord! **C** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy. **C** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and \neq give you His peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

(continued)

5. My Savior paid the debt I owe
 And for my sin was smitten;
 Within the Book of Life I know
 My name has now been written.
 I will not doubt, for I am free,
 And Satan cannot threaten me;
 There is no condemnation!

6. May Christ our intercessor be
 And through His blood and merit
 Read from His book that we are free
 With all who life inherit.
 Then we shall see Him face to face,
 With all His saints in that blest place
 Which He has purchased for us.

7. O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
 But hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way
 In fear and tribulation.
 O hear and grant our fervent plea:
 Come, mighty judge, and set us free
 From death and ev'ry evil.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"O Bride of Christ, Rejoice"

by Jeffrey Blersch

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 AM

December 16: "In Anxious Times – Rejoice!"; Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, Guest Speaker
 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." With anxiety on the rise, the Apostle Paul's call to "rejoice always" seems all but unobtainable. While there are many helpful ways to cope with society's increasing anxiety, Paul points us to a frequently overlooked source of joy and peace, God's grace in Christ. (Philippians 4:4-7)

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Total General Offering Blessings – 11/01/18 through 11/30/18.....	\$ 33,608.01
General Fund	19,660.00
E.C.C. Tuition	13,207.05
Loose Plate, Sunday School and Other Gifts	740.96
Total Expenditures	36,964.67
Surplus / (Deficit).....	(3,356.66)
Fiscal Year Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit)	(17,614.68)