



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
Florissant, MO 63033

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Welcome! If you are a guest today, we hope you leave as a friend. May this worship service surround you with the love of God through Christ and fills you with the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Communion: We welcome all to commune at LCLC. It is the table of Jesus Christ - not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. By his invitation there is a place for everyone. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine that forgives sin, nourishes faith, and calls us to be witnesses of the gospel.

Notes about our worship service: You can also follow along with the service on the screen in the front. Guidance is printed in *italics* throughout. "**P**" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "**L**" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "**C**" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation. We use a variety of resources to select music and other parts of the service. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

"The King Shall Come"

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Words of Assurance

P: The Lord has done great things for us.

C: and we are glad indeed!

P: People of God, as we are called to testify to the Light let us also turn in repentance, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection

P: God of all,

C: You promise to work for those who wait, who gladly do right. Still, we have failed to work for the justice you love but we have loved wrongdoing; we have ignored the cries of those who long for comfort but we have sought to sow fear and discord; we have not shared the good news with the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captive, the mourning, but we have chosen to keep the story to ourselves.

Forgive us; help us to turn again to you. Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

P: Beloved, we receive glad tidings from our God: the fig tree puts forth leaves, the voice cries in the wilderness: someone greater is coming to disrupt our world with love. This is our story to share, written in our hearts by the Spirit: we are forgiven + through Jesus the Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: AMEN

GATHERING HYMN

"The King Shall Come"

ELW#260

GREETING

P: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

C: The end of the world is near.

L: God is faithful.

C: Tear open the heavens and come down! Make the mountains quake! Make the nations tremble!

L: God is faithful.

C: This generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

L: God is faithful.

C: And so we light this candle to shine forth with hope, for the tidings of the end lead to a new beginning.

L: God is faithful.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. We long for your presence, O God of hosts. Stir up your strength and come to help us, for we see suffering and injustice all around. Keep us awake to offer tidings of hope, for your new day comes just as the fig tree puts forth leaves. Help us to live as your people, united in the Spirit through the one who is to come. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "Waiting"

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

so that you might make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

L: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call up-on your name.

C: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - *Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter (verses 24-37)

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until

all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Matt

HYMN OF THE DAY “My Lord, What a Morning” ELW #438

PROFESSION OF FAITH – *The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting up stories of ending and beginning, joy and disruption, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s coming in Jesus.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. In the midst of endings and destruction, reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion,

especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (*especially*). Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence (*especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of all stories, receive these and all our prayers, and restore us with your great and everlasting love.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING AND PRAYER

P: Faithful God, we long for your coming and share stories of your promised justice. Receive these gifts even as we pray to keep awake to your hopeful resonance.

C: Amen

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: We are the body of Christ.

C: His Spirit is with us.

P: Let us lift up our 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.

P: Like a potter, in the beginning you created the earth, and we are all the work of your hands. Even the mountains quake in the creative disruption of your presence, and to your people who wait for you, you are the promise of healing and new life. In your child, Jesus, you have come among us, teaching us to live and seek you in all times and places. Though Jesus was killed by those who would bring destruction, you raised him from the dead, showing us that where there are endings, even death, new life will come forth. You renew us each day as we share glad tidings of your promised incarnation and await your coming again in joy. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, with the angels and archangels who envelop us, with all the saints before us and beside us, with siblings and parents, east and west, north and south, and with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet, in this mystery are close to us,

C: Blessing and honor and glory are yours forever.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and wine, we share the good news of Christ's presence with us. Come to the table.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.

Lamb of God (Advent)

(to the tune CRADLE SONG)

tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. J. Seagle

Voice

O Christ thou Lamb of God you
take a - way the sin of the world. Have
mer - cy on us. O us. O Christ thou Lamb of
God you take a - way the sin of the
world. Grant us thy peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“All Earth is Hopeful”

ELW#266

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

L: You have fed us at your table

C: **You have shown us through this meal what it means to be God with us.**

L: Now send us forth from this table

C: **That we may share tidings of (hope, peace, joy, love)**

L: We pray this in the name of the one whose day draws near,

C: **Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

*(ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please see announcements at the end of this bulletin.)

BENEDICTION

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Savior of the Nations Come”

ELW#263

DISMISSAL

L: When we ask, “how long, O Lord?”

C: God reminds us, “I AM faithful.”

L: When we cry out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

C: God proclaims, “This is the beginning.”

L: When we point to the one who is greater than ourselves,

C: God fills us with rejoicing.

L: When we listen to the voice that calls us blessed,

C: God shows that love changes everything.

L: May our God + who weaves us into the story of faith bless and keep us this Advent/Christmas season and forever more.

C: AMEN

POSTLUDE:

“Savior of the Nations Come”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Great Rivers Collaborative Advent Service Event** Join us in worship during a combined Advent Service scheduled for December 13th at 6:00 pm. The worship service will be held at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ with a light meal starting at 5:00 pm. Congregational members from each church will participate in the service. **Please see the sign-up sheet** in the narthex to indicate if you can attend and bring either a chili or a dessert. Be sure to attend the dinner even if you are not able to bring food. If you have any questions or need a ride to the dinner and service, contact Laurie Brown or Randy Henning.
- 2. DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH TO MEET AT CUGINO'S** The Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, December 14 at 11:30 at Cugino's, 1595 N. Hwy. 67, 63031. For reservations contact Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net. All are welcome!
- 3. “Girls Scouts & Living Christ** quilt making for Lutheran World Relief has been cancelled for December 16th and has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Any questions, please speak with Kathy Endorf.”
- 4. DIRECTORY UPDATE:** We are working on updating our records for people affiliated with LCLC. Please take a moment to review your contact information we currently have on file. Copies for review are in the fellowship area and on the table by the pastor's office.
- 5. MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT –** Under the direction of Bill Kaepfel, our six member Bell Choir provides special music for our worship services. Thanks to all for your talent and dedication.
- 6. ADVENT Worship** Dec. 6 & 20 @ 2:00 pm & Dec. 13 dinner 5:00pm service 6:00 pm.
- 7. FIFTY PLUS NEWS** Christmas Luncheon at 11:00 am December 20, 2023 Enjoy a Christmas lunch catered by Tornatore's in the LCLC church basement. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board

along with the menu. Bring a small wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the exchange game!
The cost is \$10 for members and \$18 for guests. Please pay in advance to Glenn Mueller,
Joyce Meyer or Joyce Wolfe.

December 3, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Terry Calderwood
Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Randy Henning & Dave Endorf
Greeter: Joyce Meyer
Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Gary Brown
Zoom: Erle Craig
Musician:
Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoechner
Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood
Altar Guild: Doris Stoechner & Bill Kaepffel

December 10, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Laurie Brown
Zoom & Slides: Gary & Laurie Brown
Musician:
Ushers: Cathie Lehr & Marilyn Wiley
Greeter: Gloria Broderick
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

Joyful Giving Note - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will and/or other estate plans. You may want to at least tithe (give 10%) of your estate to the Lord. Remember to include the church's name and address along with the amount of your bequest. Should you wish, the pastor will provide you with the name of a caring and capable professional who can assist you.