

THE BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST OF
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCOME YOU TO THE DIVINE SERVICE!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.



Christ the King Lutheran Church

A member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Declaring new life in Jesus Christ & encouraging all to take their next step of faith with Jesus!

205-988-5004 -- www.ctkbham.org

611 Riverchase Parkway West

Birmingham, Alabama 35244

***Our vision:** All people will know God personally through Jesus Christ.*

***Our mission:** Inward searching, outward seeking, forward together with Jesus Christ.*

Psalm 139:23--Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Matthew 4:19 – “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

The First Sunday of Advent

***All music used by permission, copyright info on file in Church Office.*

Welcome! We're glad you're here....

OUR INVITATION: Our family of faith invites you to participate in our mission to share the Gospel (which means "good news") of Jesus Christ, as we gather to hear the word of God and share the presence of Christ in Holy Communion and Christian fellowship. The Gospel is that Almighty God is for us and with us, and we know this with certainty through Jesus Christ. With your participation, our God-given mission to spread this good news to the world and the surrounding community can only be strengthened. Our pastor and members are here for you!

Sunday School Classes and Rooms (all classes meet at 9:20 a.m.):

"Gospel of John" led by Ralph Hyatt & Pastor Chris in Library.

Oasis with Martha Green & Maizie Nelson, in the Luther Room foyer.

Disciple 2 led by Anita Humphries in the Luther Room.

Children's Sunday Education - NURSERY IS available for infants & children 3 years of age during each worship service, and education time. Following are where everyone will meet:

Nursery (infant - 3 years old) ~ Main blg Nursery

4th – 5th grade ~ Disciple Room

3K & K ~ John Room

Jr. High ~ Jr High Room

1st – 3rd grade ~ Matthew & Mark Room

Sr. High ~ Youth Room

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS NOTES: *Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

Welcome for Advent (from Mary's song when told she'd bear God's Son):

PASTOR: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

Congregation: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT MEMORY VERSE: *(Underlined is for 3 years & younger)*

"For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

BRIEF ORDER for CONFESSION of SIN and FORGIVENESS:

We confess our sinful nature and our actual sins and speak to one another the forgiveness in Jesus' name that the Lord would have us all speak to any who are sorry for their sin.

The invocation and call to confession of sin, then SILENCE FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

Leader: Let us now confess our sin to God our Father together.

All: 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 way to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God in his mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I announce to you the good news that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **HYMN OF JOY: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** (LBW #34)

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

2. Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times once gave the law In cloud, and majesty, and awe. [*Refrain*]

3. Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell your people save And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [*Refrain*]

5. Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. [*Refrain*]

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING:

Pastor: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

♪ **THE KYRIE:** (page 78-79 in the front of the green book for music)

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: 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.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Congregation: Amen**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY: (*Spoken by all*) **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME: Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Song -- *Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope, He brings hope to every heart, He comes, He comes.*

♪ **ANTHEM:** "Carol for Advent" Adult Choir English Carol arr by Don Besig
Duet - Judy Roberts & Maizie Nelson

PROGRESSIVE HANGING of the GREENS: *(An adapted tradition for the season of "Advent," which means "coming," as we consider anew what it means to prepare for the coming of the Lord. One piece will be added every Sunday and Wednesday until Christmas Eve.)*

Advent Service #1 (1st Sunday) – The Advent Wreath

Scripture: **Isaiah 65:17-19** – “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create

Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. ¹⁹“I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying.”

(Lector: "This is the word of the Lord!" then all, "Thanks be to God!")

Narration – “I will rejoice and take delight in my people,” says the Lord. Those wearing a ring on your hand, touch it. See how it’s a circle with neither beginning nor end. So too the Advent wreath is a circle, a symbol of God’s unfailing love for God’s people, all of us called through baptism and faith into God’s church, which is the Body of Christ. On each of the four Sundays in Advent, one more of the

four Advent candles will be lit. The outer candles are blue, a color that suggests hope and expectation. Surrounded by hope, the central candle is white, symbolizing purity, royalty, and the light of the world. Indeed, this central candle is the “Christ” candle, for out of darkness light shines, pointing us in hope and expectation to Him who is light for our darkness and the light of the world.

♪ **Verse, sung by all** – Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by your advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Em-man-u-el Shall come to you, O Israel.

THE FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Introduction: *In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship, God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name – “The LORD is our righteousness” – proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

The Reading:

¹⁴‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall

execute justice and righteousness on the earth. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.’

(Lector: "This is the word of the Lord!" then all, "Thanks be to God!")

♪ **THE PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

(Congregation has verses in bold)

The Introduction: *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*

To ‘ you, O LORD,*

I lift ‘ up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ‘ put to shame,*
nor let my enemies triumph ‘ over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be ' put to shame;*
rather let those be put to shame ' who are treacherous.

**⁴ Show me your ' ways, O LORD,*
and teach ' me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your ' truth and teach me,*
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ' the day long.

**⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- ' sion and love,*
for they are from ' everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ' my transgressions;*
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- ' ness, O LORD.

**⁸ You are gracious and up- ' right, O LORD;*
therefore you teach sinners ' in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- ' ly in justice*
and teach the low- ' ly your way.

**¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ' love and faithfulness*
to those who keep your covenant and your ' testimonies.**

♪ ADVENT VERSE:

(sung twice by all) O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The Introduction: *God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

♪ *(sung)* C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel:

²⁵ "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for

yourself that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; ³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. ³⁶ But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may

have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the

Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

♪ (sung)

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON: **The Advent Theme: “God Prepares Us to Celebrate”**

Today: “Be careful which star you follow; God’s star will guide us”

♪ **HYMN OF THE DAY: “We Three Kings”**

(WOV #646, blue book)

1. We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. *(Refrain)*

3. Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, gladly raising, Worshipping God Most High. *(Refrain)*

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *(Refrain)*

5. Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and Sacrifice; Heav'n sing alleluia: Alleluia the earth replies. *(Refrain)*

THE NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition, the leader says, "Lord, in your mercy" and all respond, "Hear our prayer."

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE:

Greetings celebrate God bringing us peace together with Himself through Christ.

MINUTE for MISSION:

& GIVING THANKS to God with His tithes (*first 10% income*) & our offerings (*beyond 10%*).

Our Mercy Ministry basket today supports Global Media Outreach

Prayer requests can be written on prayer cards and turned in here and/or sent to office@ctkbham.org.

Offerings are appreciated: plates are at the back of the sanctuary or give at www.ctkbham.org, or mail a check to:

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 611 Riverchase Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35244.

♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN:** Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CELEBRATING & SHARING
CHRIST'S PROMISED PRESENCE IN HOLY COMMUNION**

♪ **THE LORD'S PRAYER:** 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT: *All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present as he promised are invited to Commune. Children who have not received First Communion instruction and all others who ARE NOT baptized are invited forward to receive a blessing in Christ.*

♪ **At Distribution:** # 22, 27, & 31 in LBW green book

THE BLESSING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION

♪ **HYMN to the WORLD: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"** (LBW #25)

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear; The evening is advancing, And darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the bridegroom near; Go forth as he approaches With alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.
4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!

THE DISMISSAL: P: In the strength of Christ, let's go in peace; and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE:

"Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S (12/08) WORSHIP:

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S WORSHIP:

Philippians 1:3-11

God's Path for Growth as a Disciple/Follower of Jesus:

Save the Lost – Luke 19:10

Pastor the Saved – Acts 2:41-47

Equip the Pastored – Ephesians 4:11-16

a. prayer b. evangelism c. discipleship d. team

Send the Equipped – Matthew 28:18-20