

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve 12/24/25 – 4:30pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WREATH LIGHTING/CALL TO WORSHIP

Of the Father's Love Begotten ELW 295 vs 1 & 3

Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this". (*Isaiah 9:6-7*)

We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

The Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath is lit.

Of the Father's Love Begotten ELW 295 vs 4 & 5

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [†] one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**
Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. [†] Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The light of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READING: Psalm 96 (*read responsively*)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.
¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<i>He Came Down</i>	ELW 253
GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20		(NT page 54)
SERMON	<i>"Do Not Be Afraid"</i>	
HYMN OF THE DAY	<i>What Child Is This</i>	ELW 296

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 GOD'S PEOPLE Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Give by mobile: Text "GIVE" to 320-313-1815, by mail or on our website – www.ctkb.org/generosity/

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,___
5
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
9
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord Ho -
13
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na, glo - ry to God!___

EUCARISTIC PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION *We commune at two stations in front of the pulpit and lectern. Come down the side aisles, receive the bread; proceed to the wine or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available. Return to your seats by the center aisle. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Sheep May Safely Graze BWV208

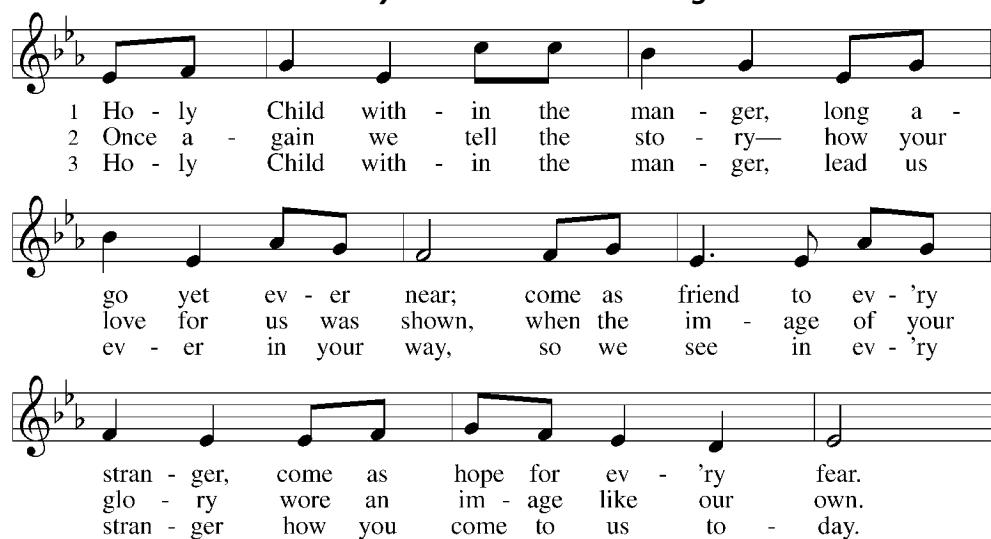
by J.S. Bach

The First Noel

ELW 300

Holy Child within the Manger

on screen



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry love for us was shown, when the im - age of your ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear. glo - ry wore an im - age like our own. stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
 Come, en - light en with your wis - dom, come and
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

CANDLE LIGHTING

Peace, Peace

Rick & Sylvia Powell, arr. Fred Block

SENDING HYMN

Silent Night

ELW 281

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Worship Leaders

Ministers

All of you!

Preaching

Pastor Per Halaas

Children's Message

Kristina Elder

Assisting

Matilda Sears

Lector

Kay Marotz

Director of Music Ministry

Kristi MacKay

Assistant Music Director/Pianist

Darin Tysdal

Special Music

Trinity Choir, Chapel Ringers, Akiko Durbin, organ;

Rachel & Naomi Bernier, clarinet; Jacob Schmidt, Trombone; David Westermoe, French horn

All music under copyright use OneLicense#A-704107

(Please place your candles in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary)

***God's Peace and Blessings to All from the People and Staff of
 Christ the King Lutheran Church***