

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**January 1, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**PRELUDE**

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

**WELCOME/PRAYER REQUESTS**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**Angels, From the Realms of Glory (vs 1,2,4)**

**LBW 50**



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*




Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

**Greeting**


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

**And also with you.**


## KYRIE



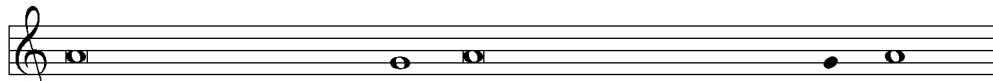
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



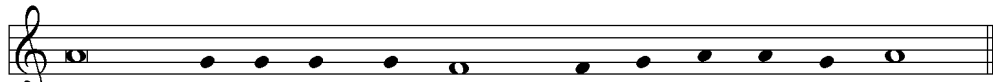
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.




**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



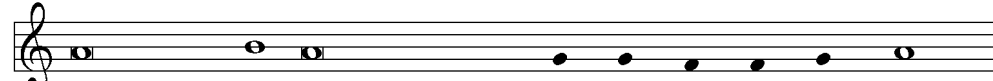
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Congregation may be seated.*

### WORD

#### FIRST READING:

Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Response after reading*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
 praise God in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
 sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
 sing praise, all you shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
 and you waters above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
 giving them a law that shall not pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
 you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
 tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
 creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
 old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING:****Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

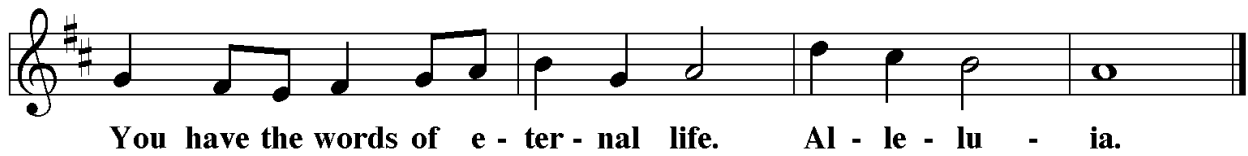
*Response after reading*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

*Response after reading*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### It Came upon the Midnight Clear (vs 1,2,4)

LBW 54



2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## DEPARTURE OF PASTOR JOHN

*The Pastor (P) and a Representative of the Congregation (R) come forward.*

**R:** Pastor John, on February 10, 2022, you were appointed as our Interim Pastor: to prepare us for our next called pastor, to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

You have served our congregation faithfully these eleven months. You are now leaving our midst. As members of this congregation, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your next endeavor, bringing closure to your ministry at Christ Lutheran Church.

**P:** I thank the members of Christ Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness and support shown to me and my family during interim ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**C: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness and accept that you now must leave us. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

**P:** I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

**R:** Do you, members of Christ Lutheran Church, release Pastor John from the duties of Interim pastor?

**C: We do, with God's help.**

**R:** Do you offer encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in his future?

**C: We do, with God's help.**

**R:** Do you, Pastor John, release this congregation from turning to you and depending on you?

**P:** I do, with God's help.

**R:** Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

**P:** I do, with God's help.

**R:** We will hold you in our prayers as you begin what God has next for you. We pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing.

**R:** Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. We give you thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together in the tapestry of your church. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**R:** We send you forth with a going away blessing.

*(Congregation lift arms raised upward toward Interim Pastor to signify the bestowal of a blessing)*

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.

## THE PRAYERS

*Following each petition*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

## MEAL

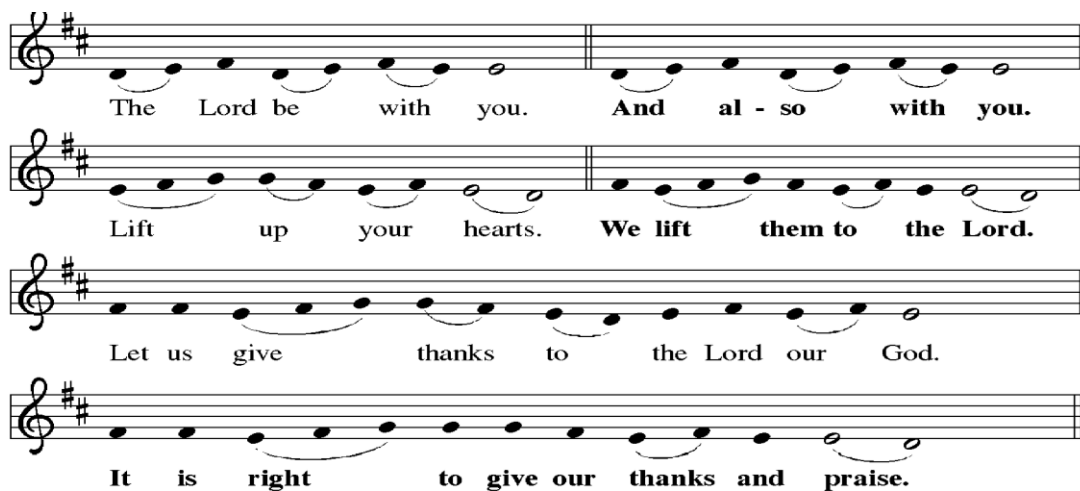
**OFFERING** (Please reflect on giving of your time, talents, and treasures and make an offering to God based on all that God has first given you.) Your continued financial giving is important for the health of our congregation – especially in this time. We appreciate your generosity, and we will need to work together to continue to support our mission.

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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 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.

*Congregation may be seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## COMMUNION

### What Child Is This

LBW 40

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**LBW 60**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**