

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | *Third Sunday in Advent*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to our worship service today! We are glad to have you with us as we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and brings us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

SERVICE NOTES

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son. Since Christ's coming is sure and certain, He sends out messengers in the footsteps of John the Baptist who help us to make proper preparation for His coming. Listen to their message—the message of God's own Word to be ready for Christ's coming.

If you need any assistance, please ask any of our ushers for help. In inclement weather, or if walking from your car is difficult, please make use of the carport. The ushers will gladly park and/or retrieve your car for you if needed.

If you are a visitor with us today, please sign the Guest Book before you leave today (the black binder in the front of church). If you would like to learn more about our church or are interested in church membership, please speak with Pastor Holtz or one of the elders.

If you have small children, please note that there is a Parents' Room at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily calm a child. From the Parents' Room you can still see, hear, and participate in the worship service.

For your convenience today's order of service is printed on the following pages.

Holy Communion: We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of "close communion," communing only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). Guests, please speak with the pastor prior to the service if you wish to commune. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister

Rev. Roger Holtz

Organist

Deb Meyer

Elder on Duty

Sunday: Rod Meves

Ushers on Duty

Joseph Massie, Joseph Massie, Jr., Charles Hartwig

Altar Guild

Lila Barlament & Jan Johnson

The Order of the Holy Communion

Please stand.

OPENING HYMN

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding | 60

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

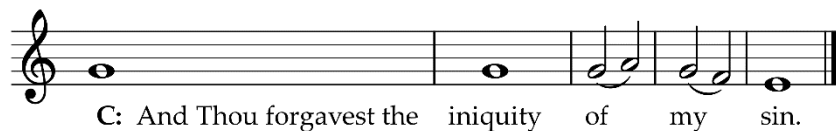


M: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



M: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.



C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

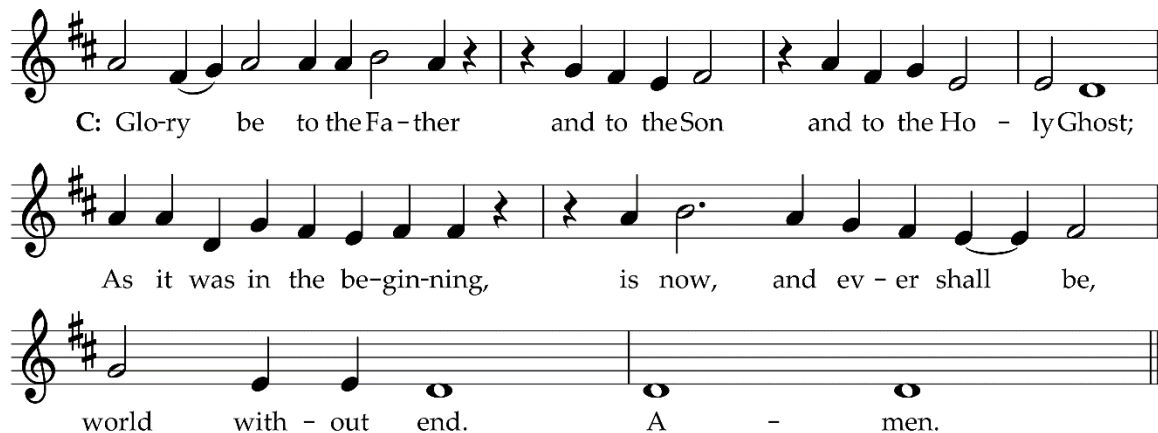


You may be seated.

THE INTROIT & GLORIA PATRI

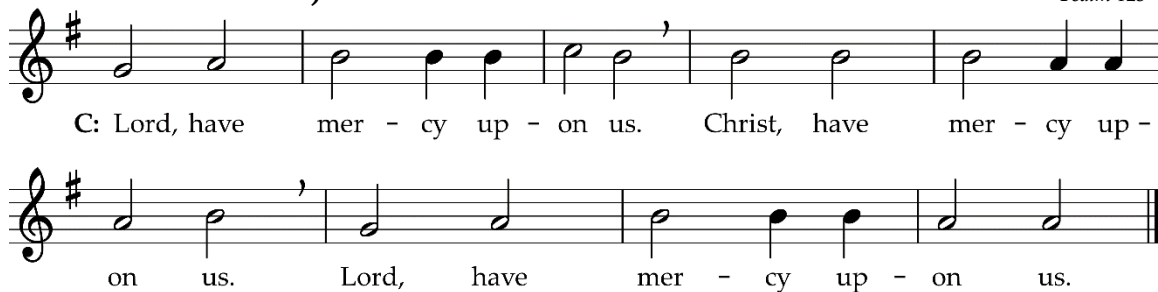
Revelation 22:20

M: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen.



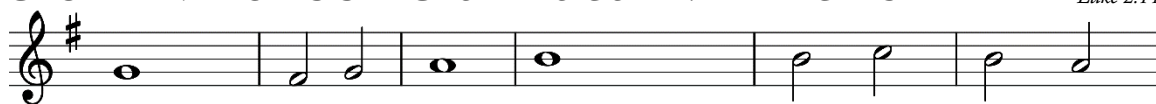
THE KYRIE—*LORD, HAVE MERCY*

Psalms 123

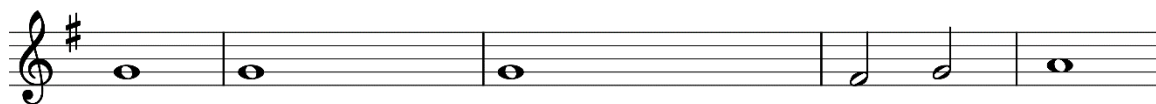


GLORIA IN EXCELSIS—"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

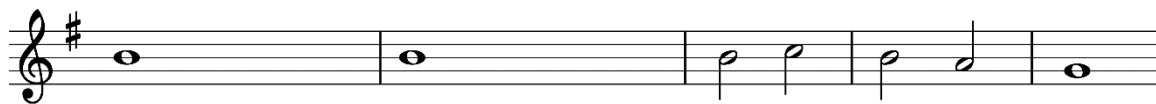
Luke 2:14



C: Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God,



Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the



world, have mercy up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the



world, re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the

Father, have mercy up - on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou
on - ly art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly
Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent 3

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to His people's prayers. John proclaimed Him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear His call to see the light.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

The first Advent candle is lit.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spir - it.

Please stand.

M: Let us pray: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for You live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-3, 10-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a] ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil. ²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

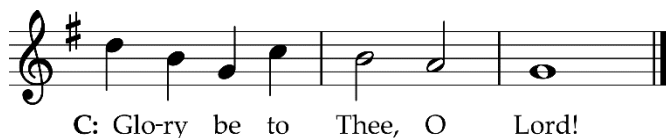
GRADUAL

M: Alleluia! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies: for they have been from of old. Alleluia!



Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28



⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^[a] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"^[b] ²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"²⁶"I baptize with^[c] water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



THE NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

You may be seated.

HYMN

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition | 65

Please stand for the singing of the final stanza.

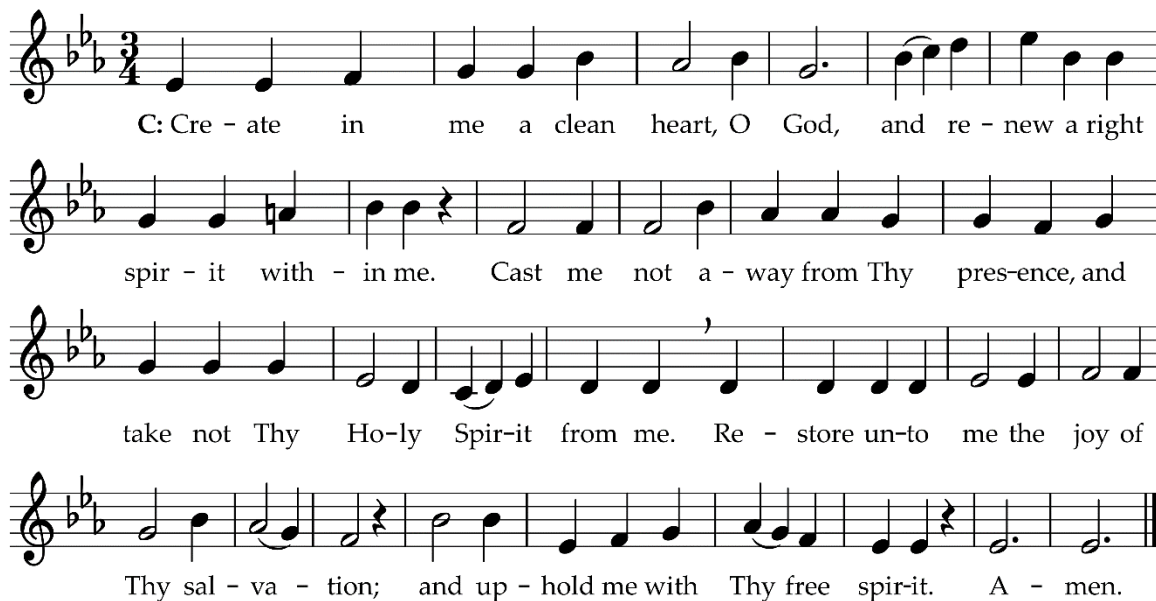
SERMON – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Keep Focused on Christ

1. He changes your life.
2. He frees you from evil.
3. He preserves your faith.

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres-ence, and
take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re - store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

You may be seated.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

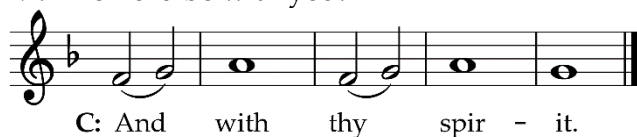
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of "close communion." This means that we commune only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). If you are a guest who is interested in communing, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

THE PREFACES & THE SANCTUS ("HOLY, HOLY, HOLY")

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



C: It is meet and right so to do.

M: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He cometh again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo-ry; Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the



high-est. Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that com-eth in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san-na in the high-est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: 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.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



THE LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

You may be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution of the sacrament, communicants may come forward at the direction of the ushers.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee | 58

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (*"Now Dismiss"*)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord-ing to Thy
word, For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation: which Thou hast pre -
pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and to the
Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now, and
ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

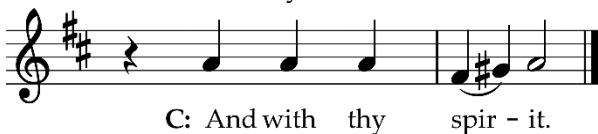
C: And His mercy en - dureth for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your Mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.



THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Let us bless the Lord.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come | 55

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS - If you'd like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please sign up and find details on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP SNACKS – Thanks to the Snack Angels for serving treats today. If you'd like to serve treats on Sunday mornings, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – Please join us for the Congregational Christmas Brunch after the worship service **TODAY**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ADVENT SUPPERS – The last Advent Supper is this Wednesday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. We still need individuals to sign up to contribute food, serve and clean up after.

PASTOR TRENT SAARI – At our call meeting, voting members selected Pastor Saari of Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church of Cottage Grove, WI. Please keep Pastor Saari and his family in your prayers as he considers this Divine Call.

THE MITTEN TREE –Women on a Mission gave the first half donations to the Howard-Suamico Giving Tree. The second half donations were given to the Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay. In total, we collected 1 pair of slippers, 12 scarves, 54 hats, 38 pairs of socks, and 40 pairs gloves/mittens. Thank you to all who donated to the Mitten Tree. Thank you to all who donated.

BIBLE STUDY – Due to the Christmas and New Year’s holiday services, we will not have Bible Study until the first Sunday in 2024, January 7.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Midweek Advent Services—Wednesday at 6:30 pm on Dec. 20. Supper at 5:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year’s Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY (12/17)	Divine Service, 9:00 a.m. Congregational Christmas Brunch
WEDNESDAY (12/20)	Emerald Bay Service, 4:00 p.m. Advent Soup Supper, 5:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service, 6:30 p.m. Choir practice after service
SUNDAY (12/24)	Divine Service, 9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 p.m.

OUR MISSION

*Christ the King Ev. Lutheran
Church gives all praise
and thanks to the Triune
God for His grace received
through Word and
Sacrament by sharing the
saving Gospel of Christ
with the people of this
community and the world.*