



**Christ Lutheran Church**  
3384 Island Road, Wantagh, NY 11793  
516.221.3286 • [clcwantagh.org](http://clcwantagh.org)

**The Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

The Holy Eucharist ♦ December 7, 2025 ♦ 9:00AM

**WELCOME!**

It is an honor to have you here for worship. We hope you will feel safe and comfortable in this holy house. A few notes to help you along the way:

- Most of what you will need is printed in this bulletin.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) is the source for hymns which are listed by number in the upper right- or left-hand corner of the page.

**PROVIDING FOR THE YOUNGEST SAINTS**

Children learn to worship by participating in the liturgy. The worship of the whole community is enhanced by their involvement. Should your little one need a break, please feel free to move about, to step out for a moment, or to make use of the prayer-ground as may be helpful.

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament. You may commune in either or both elements of bread and wine. The ushers will direct you forward via the center aisle. You have options!

- You may take an empty cup from a tray and hold onto it. You will then be given the bread to consume before approaching a minister who will fill your cup from a pouring chalice. After consuming the wine, please place the cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.
- You may bypass the small cup, receive the bread, then dip it into the chalice before consuming it.
- If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, please cross your arms before your chest and you will be offered a blessing.

*A star (\*) invites you to stand as you are able.*

## THE GATHERING RITE

### \* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LIGHT TWO CANDLES TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH (VERSE 2)



- |   |                         |                        |                       |              |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Light one can-dle to    | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 2 | Light two can-dles to   | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 3 | Light three can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 4 | Light four can-dles to  | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

### \* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Long-expected God,

**People: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for weapons, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping**

awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in your timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Pastor: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and readied to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

\* GATHERING HYMN #257: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

\* GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE #410: ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19**

*The psalm will be read responsively; the people will read the **bold** text.*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and in the hills, righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and the moon endure, from one generation to another.

**Let he come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

**Amen. Amen.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 15:4-13**

Lector: A reading from Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name;" and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people;" and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him;" and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**\* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #254: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

**\* THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON



**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #255: THERE’S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS**

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition concludes, “God of grace...” to which the people are invited to respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

Pastor: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**People: Amen.**

**THE MEAL**

**\* THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY: A VOICE CRIES OUT BY MICHAEL JONAS (ADULT CHOIR)**

**\* OFFERTORY HYMN #184: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL (NELSON)**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Deacon:Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

**All: Amen.**

**\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\* SANCTUS**

S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...  
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



## \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

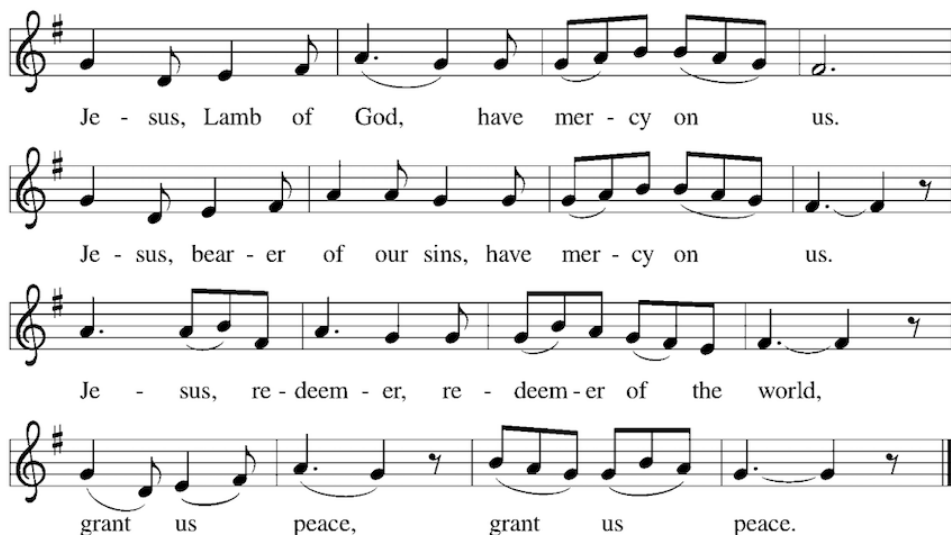
Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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

Pastor: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive the gift of life that God has promised.

## \* LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN #500: NOW WE REMAIN

### \* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you ever in his grace.

People: Amen.

### \* HYMN #206: THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



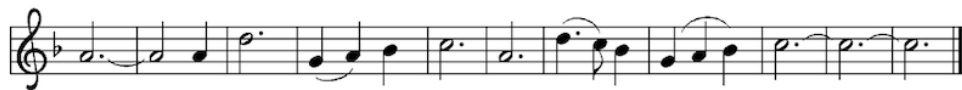
Thank-ful hearts and voices raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Deacon: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

## THE SENDING RITE

### \* BLESSING

Pastor: *The blessing is pronounced.*

**People: Amen.**

### \* SENDING HYMN #264: PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

### \* DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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### Serving Today

Presiding Minister/Preacher: The Rev. Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*

Deacon: Roxanne Toomey

Director of Music: Nicole Nicholson

Organist: Kamelija Galijan-Curry

Altar Guild: Elaine DiChiara, June Fahey, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Rath

Communion Assistant: Dee Bloomfield

Counters: Robert Ahearn, John Gross, Hans Vogel

Ushers: Matt and Michael Murphy

Coffee Hour Hosts: Barbara Stone, Dee Bloomfield, BJ Gilmor, and Nancy Gephardt

*Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Robert E. Freyer on his birthday anniversary by Eleanor Freyer and family, and in loving memory of Otto P. Roepke by Barbara & Roy Stone and family.*

## Announcements

Financial and in-kind donations are currently being accepted for the Seafarers' Christmas at Sea care satchels. We are especially in need of men's **small, medium, or large** hoodies, thermal/sports socks, t-shirts, knit hats or scarves (no fringe or pom-poms, please), and cans of nuts or large chocolate bars. Donations can be left in the designated box in Room 2000. If you have questions, please see Jan or John Eastlund.

Children's winter weather items are currently being accepted for the Mr. Mittens collection. Donations benefit the pediatric unit at Nassau University Medical Center. Donations can be left in the designated box in the narthex.

The annual Orlando condo raffle will be called during coffee hour **next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please see Barbara Stone to purchase a ticket (\$5 each). Thank you to Hans & Laura Vogel for donating!

Christmas flower memorials are now being accepted. If you would like to participate, please submit a memorial form (copies of which are in the sanctuary and on the coffee hour table) by **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**.

A holiday tradition continues! All are invited to participate in this year's Congregational Christmas Card. Please mail in a Christmas card addressed to the congregation (and, if you are able, a monetary donation of your choice) to the church office by **Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**. All cards will be lovingly displayed in the sanctuary, and all proceeds will be used to help those in need.

## St. John's Food Pantry

As SNAP and other benefits are being reduced or rescinded, donations of food and personal care items are needed now more than ever. Please place donations in the box in Room 2000. Needed items include beef/chicken stew, canned chicken, cooking oil, coffee, corned beef hash, noodles, hot cereal, hot chocolate, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressing, birthday cake items, shelf-stable milk, facial tissue, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items. *Please check the expiration dates before donating.*



## We Remember Those on the Prayer List

Judy Angeloch, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, Regina Coons, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Alison Daurio, Joan Drake, Kelly Dempsey, Lynn Deere, Logan Dunne, Doris Gannon, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Arnold Howard, Ruth Kollar, Susan & George Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Mary Ellen Massaro, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, James Pallas, Joy Polet, Barbara and Gary Proce, Catherine, Terri and Della Rao, John Reardon, Emmett and Rose Reilly, Ann and Barbara Reimer, Della Dorn Rice, Bob Rimbo, Kay Riese, Anne Scheirer, Joseph Arthur Skorupski, Donna Smith, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Nancy Valenti, Laura Vogel. To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

## Congregation Council

The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*  
Matt Murphy, *President* • Kirsten Duprez, *Vice President*  
Claudia Gross, *Secretary* • Robert Ahearn • George Balduf  
Regina Coons • Jeri Hallgren • Roxanne Toomey