

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**JOHN THE BAPTIST
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

DECEMBER 5, 2021

**DIVINE SERVICE SETTING TWO
LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK, PAGE 167
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH REDLANDS, CA**

Christ the King Lutheran Church

✠ MISSOURI SYNOD ✠

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SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 a.m. – Divine Service

10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School



TO GUEST AND VISITORS

We welcome you to our congregation in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book near the main door. We pray that the Holy Spirit would richly bless your hearing of God's Word with a living trust in Jesus Christ who died and rose for you. **For more information regarding Baptism, instruction in the Christian faith, and communicant membership, please see Pastor Smith.**

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER AT CHRIST THE KING

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- A) who have been **baptized** in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- B) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the **Lutheran Confessions**, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran Faith, and who **now confess** the same doctrine that is taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the **Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**;
- C) who believe that in this sacrament the **real body and blood** of Christ are truly distributed to them and **orally received** by them, bestowing on them the **forgiveness of sins, life and salvation**;
- D) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and **desire to receive** God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

HYMNS FOR TODAY'S DIVINE SERVICE

Processional Hymn:	Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come	350
Hymn of the Day:	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry	344
Distribution Hymns:	When All the World Was Cursed	346
	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	621
	Prepare the Royal Highway	343
	Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers	515
Recessional Hymn:	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	338

PRAYER CONCERNS

Steve Gross, brother of Deacon Russ Gross, who has suffered trauma in a car accident
Betty Mitchell, whose granddaughter, Misty, died unexpectedly
Lysah Mitchell, whose aunt Beatrice fell asleep in Christ
Virginia Alhorn, healing at home
Diane Ronchetto, awaiting hip replacement surgery, scheduled for January
Susan Jay, recovering at home from a successful surgery
Daniel Conrad, our missionary to Mexico
Shut-ins: Elsie Albanese, Pat Krahn, Bill Nye, Harriet Ouimette, Gloria Paulus,
 Troy & Louava Wideman, and Irene Pickering



ALTAR FLOWERS



The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Don & Bernice David in celebration of the birthdays of Jonee, Bernice, Harmony, Gabriella, Alazon and Alexis.



Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 20th at 6:00 pm

There may possibly be a change in this date.

We will keep you updated.



SERVANTS for THIS WEEK		SERVANTS for NEXT WEEK
Acolytes	Emma Hansen & Gabriela Vasquez	Alex Hathaway & Josh Hoffmann
Altar	Anna Bush	Nicole Creavey
Elders	Dwayne Danielson	Tom Crowley
Finance	Mary Coppenger & Steve Aimar	Mary Coppenger & Steve Aimar
Flowers	Don & Bernice David	Cindy Currier
Ushers	Robert DeCent & Glenn Henderson	Chris Blank & Loren Scott

EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	9:00AM.....	Divine Service
	10:30AM.....	Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
	11:45AM	Confirmation
TUESDAY	7:00PM.....	Church Council
WEDNESDAY	6:00PM.....	Soup Supper
	7:00PM.....	Vespers
SATURDAY	8:30AM.....	Adult Bible Study

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON (Pre-K through 8)



Lesson 5: “The Downfall Wall” is the title of this week’s lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God’s unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the

covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

Yard Signs

The Evangelism/Stewardship Committee has lighted upon a brilliant idea to leaven our community with the joy of Christmas and an implicit invitation to our beloved congregation. This merging of noble notions comes in the form of Yard Signs. The signs depict a manger scene with our website address posted beneath. If we put these signs in our yards then our neighbors (of all sorts) will see them, perhaps be intrigued, and God can/will/may use it to prompt them to discover the truth that is so warmly embraced at Christ the King Lutheran Church. The signs are attractive to be sure, thanks to Rebecca Mugiishi in particular. They are well made and can be used over multiple years, so please hold onto them for 2022 and beyond. Many thanks to John Hinkleman who applied for a Thrivent project card and we were awarded \$250. Our cost for the signs was about \$20 a piece.



Grab a sign. There is a "free-will" offering basket if you choose to help defray our costs. May God use this to bring light to those in darkness and for the glory of His Name.

Wassail Party

This is a very fun night and we have much to celebrate this year. You are requested to bring a hearty appetizer to share and you can sign up for the Wassail Party in the narthex.

December 12th

5:00 pm.

The Wolff's address is:
6764 Van Leuven Lane
Highland, CA 92346.



THE READINGS



Malachi 3:1-7b:

¹ "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem

will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶ "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Philippians 1:2-11:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart,

for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-20:

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “*of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “*see the salvation of God*” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “*will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Beginning on December 1st, we will be conducting Midweek Advent Services (Vespers) on Wednesday evenings (7:00 pm). These are times of reflection, prayer, and preparation for the High Feast of Christmas. There is another purpose to these services. Not only are we making our hearts hospitable places for the Lord to dwell but we are actively preparing ourselves for His promised return. Advent accents the reality that as Christians, we are to ready ourselves for our ultimate encounter with Christ the Lord. This encounter could be very soon. The unprepared will be sorely grieved that they are unprepared. The prepared will rejoice at the Lord’s return

Advent Theme ~ The Incarnation and Your Neighbor

December 1st ~ The Incarnation and a Sacrificial Spirit

December 8th ~ The Incarnation and a Forgiving Spirit

December 15th ~ The Incarnation and a Humble Spirit

These Vespers services are preceded by a soup supper at 6:00 pm. These times of breaking bread together are sweet familial occasions where the saints of Christ the King enjoy one another’s company and the camaraderie of table fellowship. Please sign-up on the board in the narthex to bring a soup, a salad, or a dessert.

INTROIT Ps. 81:8, 10-11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b



The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*

O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

But my people did not listen | to my voice;*

Israel would not sub- | mit to me.

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*

that Israel would walk | in my ways!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make His | paths straight.”

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE GRADUAL Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your King is com- | ing to you,*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessed is He who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.
