

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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December 11, 2022

9:00 am

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING HYMN: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB# 348 vv. 1,4,5 (Sung to LSB# 528)

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks
When beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn, shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see His face

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings
Hail, Christ the Lord, Your people pray, come quickly, King of kings

CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus says in Matthew 11: *Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.* As we think about the power of Christ, let us consider our unworthiness and confess our sins to our Heavenly Father.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we confess,

People: that we have not consistently kept Your Word. We have sinned in many ways, especially in thought, word, and deed. We plead for mercy over punishment and pray that You would restore us through Your mercy. Forgive us our sins as we humbly submit ourselves before You.

Pastor: God has examined us, and through our humility and confession, He has chosen to have mercy on us this day. Though we deserve punishment and death, He has instead forgiven us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce God's grace to you this day, that you are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Beautiful Savior" LSB# 537 vv. 1,2,3

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray: Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the guilt and shame we feel over the regrets of this world. Help us to move past these moments and embrace Your mercy. In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more

than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” LSB# 350 vv. 1,3,4 (sung to LSB# 490)

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals
Come, O Savior of the world, open are to Thee all portals
Come, Thy beauty let us see, anxiously we wait for Thee

My hosannas and my palms, graciously receive, I pray Thee
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace

Hail, hosanna, David’s Son, Jesus, hear our supplication
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation
That forever we may sing, hail, hosanna to our King

SERMON

Pastor Jesus Morales
“A No Regret Advent: Week Three”

OFFERING/PRAYER CARDS - *The offering plate is located on the rear table for you to place your offering in as you enter or leave church. **When the offering is received, an usher will bring it forward, along with any prayer cards, to the altar. If you have any prayers to include, please pass them to the usher as they come forward. For those who are***

worshipping at home, you may continue to mail your offerings to the church office, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 0S501 Summit Dr. Winfield, IL 60190. Thank you!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Dear God, be our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Show compassion to Your people and guide us in this new season.

Be with the hurting, broken, and tired, (especially...), that they might find rest.

As we move closer to Christmas, bless our outreach efforts to reach those who are searching for a message of hope. May they rejoice in knowing You are near.

Bless shelters and other organizations who reach those of whom You call us to seek with mercy and kindness.

Continue to be with all leaders, that they might find their ways wise, in harmony with Your Word.

Continue Your redemptive work in us, that we might be fully renewed in all Your ways.

For these prayers and all other prayers, we lift them to You for Your consideration and answer. We thank You for all You have done, and we continue to fervently pray, including the prayer Jesus has taught us to pray, praying...

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord bless you with joy and peace in your Christmas preparation. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "O Sing of Christ" LSB# 362 vv. 1,3,4 (sung to LSB# 366)

O sing of Christ, whose birth made known, the kindness of the Lord
Eternal Word made flesh and bone, so we could be restored
Upon our frail humanity, God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, the icon of His grace

He came to that which was His own, but He was not received
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, and some His name believed
To these He gave the right to be, the heirs of Heav'n above
Born not of human ancestry, but born of God in love

Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell, among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, to bring this holy birth
Though rich, You willingly became, One with our poverty
That we might share Your wealth and name, for all eternity!



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY THE GEORGE AND KAREN CINERT FAMILY, IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE, SR. AND FLORENCE CINERT.

A BIG THANKS TO OUR ALTAR GUILD for their beautiful decorations of the church sanctuary for Christmas! The seasonal banners, candles, Nativities, Christmas wreaths and Christmas tree – and all the other decorations – add to the warmth and soft glow of the season as we celebrate as a church family the joy of Christmas in our hearts and homes!

REMINDER TODAY – A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS FLOWER DECORATIONS. Thank you for your generosity in making our church beautiful at this joyous time of year as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE NEW NATIVITY SET BY THE CHRISTMAS TREE? That beautiful Nativity set was graciously donated to the church by Al Albeiter and his family to give glory to God as we celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas! This beautiful gift will be enjoyed by our congregation this year, and for many years to come. We sincerely thank Al and his family for their generosity to the church!

YOUR NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 ARE NOW AVAILABLE, SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK YOURS UP! The envelopes are located on the table as you exit the church, listed in alphabetical order. We thank you all for your offerings to further the work of our church in God's Kingdom.

DON'T MISS THIS – MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES WILL BE POSTED ON THE CHRIST OUR SAVIOR YOUTUBE CHANNEL. This year, the pastors in our partnership from Christ Our Savior, Word of Life and New Song churches will record the mid-week Advent Worship services, and they will be offered for your convenience to watch when your schedule permits. *The next Mid-Week service will be posted at 7:00 pm this coming Wednesday, December 14.* You can find our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJenjMr682m4NhF8gpqrQ> or use the button link on our church website home page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! – On Saturday, December 17th at 4 pm, we will be having a Christmas Concert and Sing-a-Long featuring the JUA Ensemble, “Eight Hands and Four Pianos” at Christ Our Savior! The program will also include an adult duet from Tensae Church bringing you an Ethiopian Christmas carol, as well as the Spanish Christmas music from our own Spanish worship team! Cookies and hot cocoa will be served. You won’t want to miss this!! Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors!!

Can you help? We need refreshments for the December 17th concert fellowship immediately following. If you can help by bringing some cookies or treats to share with others, we would greatly appreciate your help! There’s a sign-up sheet on the back table as you leave church to help us plan for these refreshments. Thank you!



CAN YOU BE AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS FOR A NEEDY FAMILY? Our giving tree is now located at the back of the church with gift tags for children of needy families in Winfield Township. We also are supporting last year’s Christmas Angel family with five children, as they still struggle with economic and health issues.

The tags will list the age of a child with gift suggestions, including sizes. If you are able, please take a gift tag and purchase a gift, wrap it, enclose the gift receipt, and bring it back to church with the gift tag

attached, **no later than December 18.**

We are also collecting gift cards, or cash contributions to purchase gift cards, for the families for food, clothing, or other Christmas gifts to put under their tree. **Please designate “Christmas Gift” on your check with any cash contributions.** A separate basket will be near the offering plate on the table at the back for your gift cards, checks or cash. Please help brighten the holidays for these needy families in our local area! If you have any questions, you may contact Dawn Wolter at (630) 738-9942. Thank you for your generosity, and sharing the Christmas spirit of giving in a very special way!!



THE 2023 FLOWER CHART IS NOW ON THE NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARD! REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS AS A REMEMBRANCE OR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS – If you would like to place flowers on the altar to mark a special occasion or give Glory to God, there’s a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the church entrance to reserve a date. Just sign your name, date and occasion – and take an envelope for payment of \$30 per Sunday, with checks payable to The Altar Guild. Flowers are yours to take home after the service.

PASTOR JESUS IS NOW HOLDING A NEW MEMBER CLASS FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. The class currently meets at church on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, and it features a 12-week course titled “God Connects.” It helps to answer questions such as, *Why Jesus?... Why the Bible? ...Who is the Holy Spirit?*, as well as provide valuable information about our church doctrine and the Christian life. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see Pastor Jesus and he will

give you more information about joining this class, or tell you when the next class may be scheduled. *Note: if you are transferring membership from another LCMS church, your attendance at this class is not mandatory, but would be a great refresher and chance to have your questions answered! Pastor Jesus will be very happy to facilitate the transfer for you.*

HELP SPREAD THE NEWS!....CHRIST OUR SAVIOR'S SPANISH WORSHIP SERVICE IS OFF TO A GREAT START! Our service in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking friends in Christ is on Sundays from 11 am to Noon. This is an important ministry and Christ Our Savior wants to reach out to Winfield and our neighboring communities to meet the growing need. Please pray for the success of this new ministry, and help spread the word to those who may be interested! Be sure to say hello to our Spanish friends and make them all feel welcome at Christ Our Savior!

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE 9 AM SERVICE ARE NEEDED! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED TO BRING TREATS! If you would like to help with our fellowship of coffee and treats on Sunday morning after our 9 am service, we would love to have you bring a treat for our members! The coffee and water is provided, but we need volunteers who can provide a sweet treat (coffee cake, cookies, muffins, breads, etc.) to share with everyone. Interested? There's a sign-up sheet on the back table where you can sign up for the date you want to help. Thank you!! *(Please note, there will be no refreshments on December 24 or December 25.)*

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS – Please pray for the following individuals who are in need of your prayers:

Healing or receiving medical treatment:

June DuBois

Pat Gengler

Charleen Smith, Dawn Wolter's mother

Anne Rumchaks and Joey Basile, Susan Mosteller's friends

Shirley Dring

Edward Dring, Shirley Dring's son

Dianne, Shirley Dring's daughter

Al Arbeiter

Dawn Ziemer

Dave Larson

Monica, Mary Larson's sister

Jeff, Rebecca and Joshua Lasky

In the military:

Randy, nephew of Susan Mosteller

And all cherished members who are currently shut in or resting at home.

PLEASE NOTE PASTOR JESUS' CONTACT INFORMATION – Pastor Jesus is available to minister to our congregation's needs at any time and welcomes the opportunity to serve you. He is available 24/7 to provide pastoral care, prayer, or information. He also makes congregation home visits or visits members in the hospital or nursing facility, or administers Holy Communion at home. If you have a need or want to request a visit, please contact him at 1-630-518-1517 or jesusmorales466@yahoo.com.

WITH WINTER APPROACHING – OUR BLESSING BOX CONTINUES TO BE A BLESSING TO OUR COMMUNITY!

If you are able, please consider picking up a few items during your regular shopping trips to help those less fortunate and dropping off items for our Blessing Box. *The most needed items currently include all kinds of paper products, disposable baby diapers, feminine products, personal care items, and detergents and sanitizers. Non-perishable food items, including pasta, rice, beans, baking items, tuna, canned meats and sauce are also appreciated.* With winter approaching, gloves, mittens, socks and hats can also make a difference. Please keep in mind that during extreme temperatures, freezing may occur. Cash contributions are also welcome. Thank you all for your generosity and support!

OUR BENEVOLENT FUND provides confidential emergency assistance to members who are in need of financial, spiritual or other temporary support, such as housing assistance, help paying for medical or prescription expenses, or help during hard times due to lack of employment. Please contact Pastor Jesus in person to discuss your needs, or you may contact him by phone at 1-630-518-1517.

PLEASE NOTE OUR SPECIAL FUNDS ARE CONTINUING IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

We thank our members for their generosity in supporting our various special funds that are helping us in our ministry at Christ Our Savior. Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted – just indicate the fund and the amount of your donation on your check or offering envelope when you place it in the offering plate. The funds include:

PARSONAGE FUND
PARKING LOT FUND
BLESSING BOX FUND
BENEVOLENT FUND

We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity!

REMEMBER TO BRING IN YOUR POP TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE! The aluminum tabs you pull to open soda, soup and other cans are recycled by United Scrap Metal, who buys the pop tabs at a market rate and makes an additional contribution to Ronald McDonald House. There's a large collection bottle on the back table for your convenience. Thanks so much for your help in collecting tabs and making a big difference!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PRAYER CARDS ARE LOCATED IN THE CHURCH PEWS AND CAN BE USED FOR PRAYERS ON SUNDAY MORNING. An usher will collect these cards during the service, and they will be presented to Pastor Jesus during our offering, when they will be added to our congregation prayers. If you would like a prayer shared with all members via email or on the "Prayer Corner" church website, contact Deb Odefey (1-630-209-9918) for the "Prayer Chain" and she will make sure your prayer request is communicated to our church family.