

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday



Christ's Lutheran Church

700 East Pennsylvania Avenue

Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Gathering Song Verses 5 and 6

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
ELW # 257**

Welcome

Dear people of God, we come to this service with joy and anticipation to hear the message of angels and to again return in heart and mind to Bethlehem to experience the loving kindness of our God in the form of a baby lying in a manger.

In our worship, the Word of God as well as music old and new will draw us again to the heart of the Christian message – a message filled with eternal hope and joy.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace and love.

Silence for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

In Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

**Carol
Verses 1 and 4**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory
ELW # 275**

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(The Devaney Family)

As we light the third candle, we remember the shepherds, simple men, out in the dark and cold night tending their flocks. Surely the last thing in the world they expected was the arrival of angels. The last thing they anticipated was an invitation to come and worship the Christ child. And yet it happened---and it happened to them. Sometimes, wonderful things come when we least expect them. This Advent, we pray that we will be open to the miracles all around us. Let us accept the invitation to come, just as we are to the manager in Bethlehem to share the joy of the Savior's birth. **Amen.**

Candle is lit.

Angels We Have Heard on High ELW # 289

Verse 1



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

“Love Came Down at Christmas” Joel Raney *Celebrating God’s Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

Narrators: Wes Craig, Becca Shelor

- I. “Love Came Down”
- II. “Come, Emmanuel, Come” (Hope)
- III. “Grant Us Peace” (Peace)

Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.

I will wait for the Lord,
and I will hope in God who saves us.

**Carol
Verses 1 and 2**

**Once in Royal David’s City
ELW # 269**

- IV: “Listen to the Joyful Song” (Joy)
- V: “Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine” (Love)
- VI: “Love Divine” (Reprise)

Please stand.

Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

I will wait for the Lord,
and I will hope in God who saves us.

Apostles' Creed

Let us name and proclaim the God who saves us, using the words of
the 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.

Passing of the Peace

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

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Interlude

Offertory Hymn
Verse 3

What Child is This
ELW # 296

Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Generous God, you invite us to live generous lives,
trusting that you have given us to each other to work together:
We are better together.

In service to our neighbor, in love for all creation,
and in proclamation of your good news for all:
We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered,
give us generous hearts,
honest commitment to the call you've placed before us,
and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency
as we continue to serve you and your people.
Amen.

Please stand.

Responsive Prayer

O Lord our God, be gracious to us;
we wait for you.

Dispel the darkness,
that all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth:
Join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and weary especially Rachael, Pam, Roseann, Joanne, Ken, Marlene, Marge, Eleanor, John, Sam, Charles, Grace, Fred, Jay, Bob, the Engle family, the Rose family, the Nelson family, and the Villeux family.

Renew their strength and power.

O Lord our God, come to us,
that the earth may behold your glory.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.
Thanks be to God.

Carol

Joy to the World
ELW # 267

A Word About Today's Music

Our service this morning is a variation of a service of Lessons and Carols. The inspiration for this piece was Christina Rossetti's poem, "Love Came Down at Christmas." It was written by Joel Raney and in addition to some original material, there are many familiar carols and Christmas favorites woven into the piece.

Love is the central theme of Christmas. God so loved the world that He came to earth as a Baby. There is a focus on the central themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We hope this choral message is a meaningful Christmas worship experience for you all.

***A very special thank you to Ken Selinger and the Chancel Choir
for leading today's Service of Lessons and Carols.***

Online Giving

*To make an offering to support the work of Christ's
Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America, you may use this QR code to access our
site for secure online giving.*



Portions of the Liturgy are copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #14002-LIT. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. One License #A70825.
Cares Chorus. Text and Music © Capitol CMG Publishing. 101 Winners Circle, Brentwood, TN 37027. All rights reserved. Used by permission, One License #A70825. CCLI License #1589973



Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Christmas decorations and poinsettias

Karen Bennion	In celebration of the season
Jim & Mary Jane Brennehan	In celebration of family near and far
Leigh-Ann Bussinger	In memory of our parents
Sherri Edwards	In celebration of our children and grandchildren
Shirley Engle	In memory of William and Eunice Pfeiffer
Ross & Sue Frantz	In memory of Ann and Duck Edwards
	In memory of Evelyn Edwards
	In memory of Clyde Engle
	In celebration of my wonderful family
	In celebration of our daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren
Jean & Steve Godsall-Myers (Omi and Opa)	In memory of John & Dot Frantz and Joan Reynolds
Pat & Don Hallman	In celebration of Chris Reynolds
	In honor of our grandchildren, Charlie & Eva Myers
	In celebration of our family
	Kate, Jonathan, Christine, Josiah, Matthias
	In memory of our parents
	The Rev Mr & Mrs Robert A Laubach
	Mr & Mrs Pershing H Hallman
Jim Heidler	In memory of Eleanor Heidler, mother
	In memory of Marie Farr, sister
	In memory of Louise Watts, aunt
Cheryl Kaighn	In memory of George Kaighn
John & Debbie Melnick	In memory of our parents
	Alice & John and Helen & John
	In celebration of Jennifer & Danny
Jerry, Gail and the Polis Family	In memory of Jim Polis
	In memory of Heather Polis
Kim Righter	In celebration of family and friends
Susan & David Ross	In memory of Raymond Ross
	In memory of Joan & Stan Hiltabiddle
Ken & Betsy Selinger	In memory of our parents and Ken's brother, Steve
	In celebration of our children, Stephen and Kristen and grandchildren, Cassidy and Ryan
Dolores Sweeney	In memory of Lawrence Sweeney
Dolores Sweeney, daughter	In memory of Joseph and Elise Dodel
Earl & Allison Uehling	In celebration of grandparents
	In celebration of Jenny, Thom, Abby, Shan, & Carly
Paul & Bonnie Zieger	In memory of Hermina and Paul Raser
	In memory of Ruth and Wilbur Zieger
	In memory of Anna Zieger

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Bob (friend of Betsy and Ken Selinger)
John A. (friend of Mike Messer)
Marlene Foody
Grace Griffin (daughter-in-law of Glenn & Robin Griffin)
Jay Griffin (Glenn Griffin's brother)
Ken Hartman (friend of Wes Craig)
Marge Holmes
Fred Orrik (Becca Shelor's grandfather)
Charles Piantieri (husband of Diane Piantieri)
Rachael Rinders (friend of the Kaegler Family)
Eleanor Rothenheber
Pam Schilling (friend of the Kelly Family)
Sam Weiss (friend of Ross & Sue Frantz)
Joanne Wendte (sister-in-law of Lynnmarie Harkins)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Julie Nelson (daughter of former members Erik Nelson and Helen Nelson, deceased and granddaughter of Ed Piczek, deceased) who died recently. May her loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Chris Veilleux (friend of Pastor Kaegler) who died recently. May his loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue + Oreland, PA 19075
215-886-4612 + www.christs-oreland.org
clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org

Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor
Director of Music	Ken Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr
Assisting Minister	Tim Hilbert
Soundboard	Diane Polis
Livestream	Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Tim and Deb Hilbert
Closer	Diana Nydick
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Jenna Balaicuis

Upcoming Altar Guild: December 21 Marlene Foody

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour (lobby)
	4:00 pm	Advent Prayer Center (PH)
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	7:30 pm	BS Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	2:00 pm	Unilu Dinner
	6:00 pm	Bears II (200)
	6:00 pm	Wolf Cubs (203/204)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	6:00 pm	Bear Cubs (203/204)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
Thursday	7:00 pm	Christmas Caroling (sanctuary)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)