

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church

220 S. Main St.
DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-4718

office@christlutherandeforest.org
www.christlutherandeforest.org

Pastor Sue Beadle

Neil McLaughlin, Choir Director
Deacon Bonnie Vize, Organist

December 31, 2023 - 1st Sunday after Christmas
The liturgy is Setting 8 in the ELW.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER DEDICATION - Today's Altar flowers are provided by Kim and Sue Janovitz in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary on December 19th.

OPENING LITANY OF REMEMBERING

God of wisdom and truth, at the end of this year we look back and we look forward. In the year that has passed we experienced joy and we experienced sorrow; we felt blessed and we felt challenged. Some things went by much too fast, and some things lingered for far too long. Here in this place we are reminded that you are present through it all. We are reminded that we are never alone. We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love. So at the end of this year, we pause now in silence to reflect on the year that has passed. We remember the things from this past year that we are most thankful for. We recall the moments we were the happiest. We consider the times we felt most alive. We recognize the times we gave and received the most love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times. We also remember the things from this past year that we are least thankful for. We recall the moments we were the least happy. We consider the times we felt life draining from us. We recognize the times we gave and received the least love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times too. Gracious God, at the end of this year, we look forward to the year to come. We are confident that you will be with us when we are thankful and when we are not; when we are happy and when we are sad; when we feel alive and when we feel drained; when we give and receive love and when we do not. God, the world we live in is messy and challenging, it is the world of King Herod, a world of pain, a world of doubt, a world of fear, a world of jealousy, a world of violence, a world of domination, a world of injustice, a world of human failings. Yet, God, you are with us always. So give us grace and give us courage to live faithfully in this imperfect world. Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom, emerging around us and through us.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN WOV #638 “Holy Child Within the Manger” (page 8)

PASTORAL GREETING

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY WOV #642 – “I Wonder as I Wander” (page 9)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of eternity, we bring our past to you that it may teach us. We bring our future to you that it may be blessed with your vision and hope. We bring this present moment to you that you may fill it with your transforming presence. Let us welcome the stranger who is not yet a friend, in the hungry who need the food and care we might provide, in those who thirst for water and kindness. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING – Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time

to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Hebrews 1:1-4

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION –HYMN ELW #292 “Love Has Come” (page 10)

This is the good news according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – John 1: 1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN ELW #282 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (page 11)

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders’ compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one’s death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints. Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING - *If you missed placing your offering of in the plate when you arrived, there will be another plate by the ushers to leave your offering as you depart. Thank you for your support.*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his 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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Let us pray for God's kingdom to come here, now and forever:

THE 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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Supper, for all is now ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or a Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We do ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ.

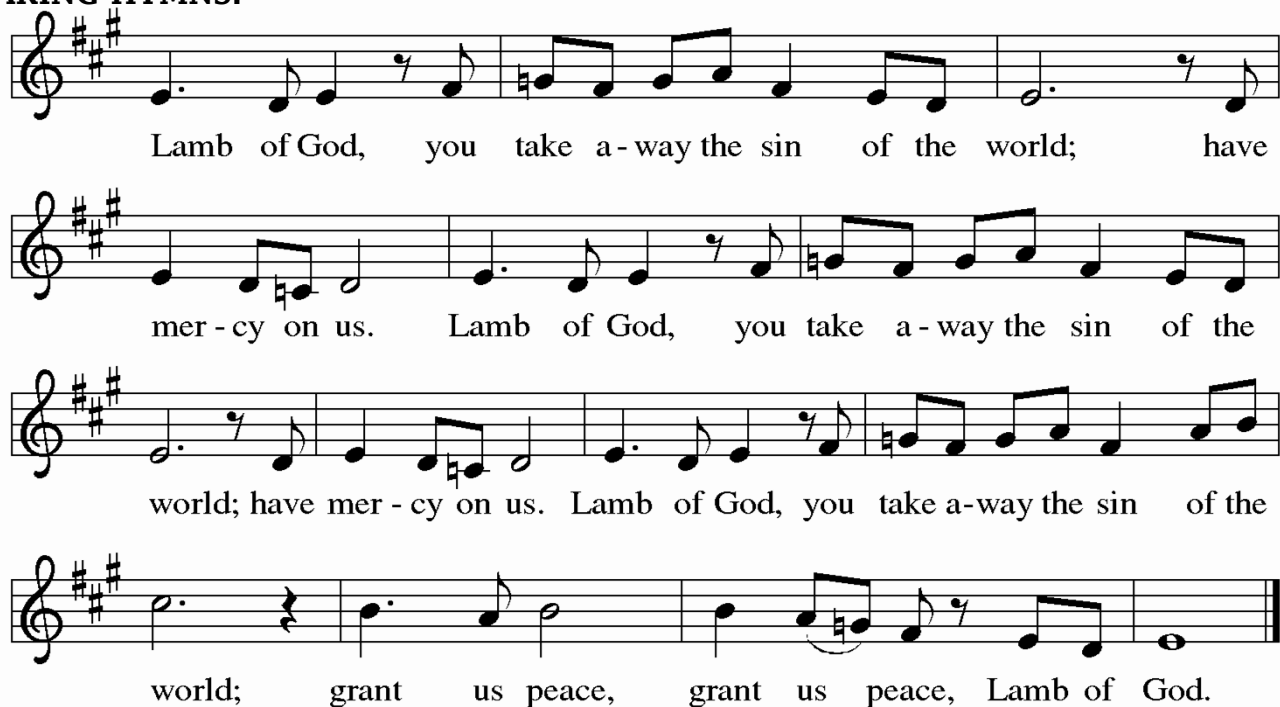
If you require gluten-free hosts, please say "no gluten" when you approach the person sharing the host.

The center rings of the trays provided contain grape juice for those desiring it. Cups may be returned to the Acolytes' baskets. The Common Cup is also available. Children may come forward for a blessing, or to receive communion if they have been through instruction, here, or at another church.

If you wish to still receive the individual communion packet (wafer on top and wine/juice on the bottom), please pick one up as you approach the front.

If you would like the sacraments brought to you, please let the usher know. Welcome!

SHARING HYMNS:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #294 - "In the Bleak Midwinter" (page 12)

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN ELW #290 - "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (page 12)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. And serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS001577. 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. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Used by permission. All rights reserved. One License.net. Annual License #A-709334.

OPENING HYMN WOV #638 "Holy Child Within the Manger"

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

HYMN OF THE DAY WOV #642 - "I Wonder as I Wander"

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER
 12 11 11 12

Special thank you to Vicki Sobczak for today's piano accompaniment.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION -HYMN ELW #292 "Love Has Come"



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**Serving you today
in Christ's love:**

Ushers

Team Emerson

Readers

Isabelle Emerson

Communion Helpers

Team Legried

Acolytes

Brinley Schwenn

Maddie Riedel

Calendar-Week of December 31, 2023

Sun., December 31

9:00 am Worship

Tues., Jan., 2

9:00 am Women's Bible Study - FH

1:00 pm Deforest Study Club - FR

5:30 pm Property Committee -FR

6:30 pm Cub Scouts-FH/NK SSR

Wed., Jan., 3

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thurs., Jan., 4

6:00 pm Boy Scouts -FH

Sun., Jan., 7

Name Tag Sunday

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

SERMON HYMN ELW #282 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

For Sale

For sale, contact: The Office 608-846-4718 or David Erickson 608-513-9137.

Lutefisk - in 5lb bags, \$7 per pound, \$35 per bag

Lefse - Bulk bags \$14/bag - Small bags \$3/bag



COMMUNION HYMN ELW #294 - "In the Bleak Midwinter"

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894

Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

SENDING HYMN ELW #290 - "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual