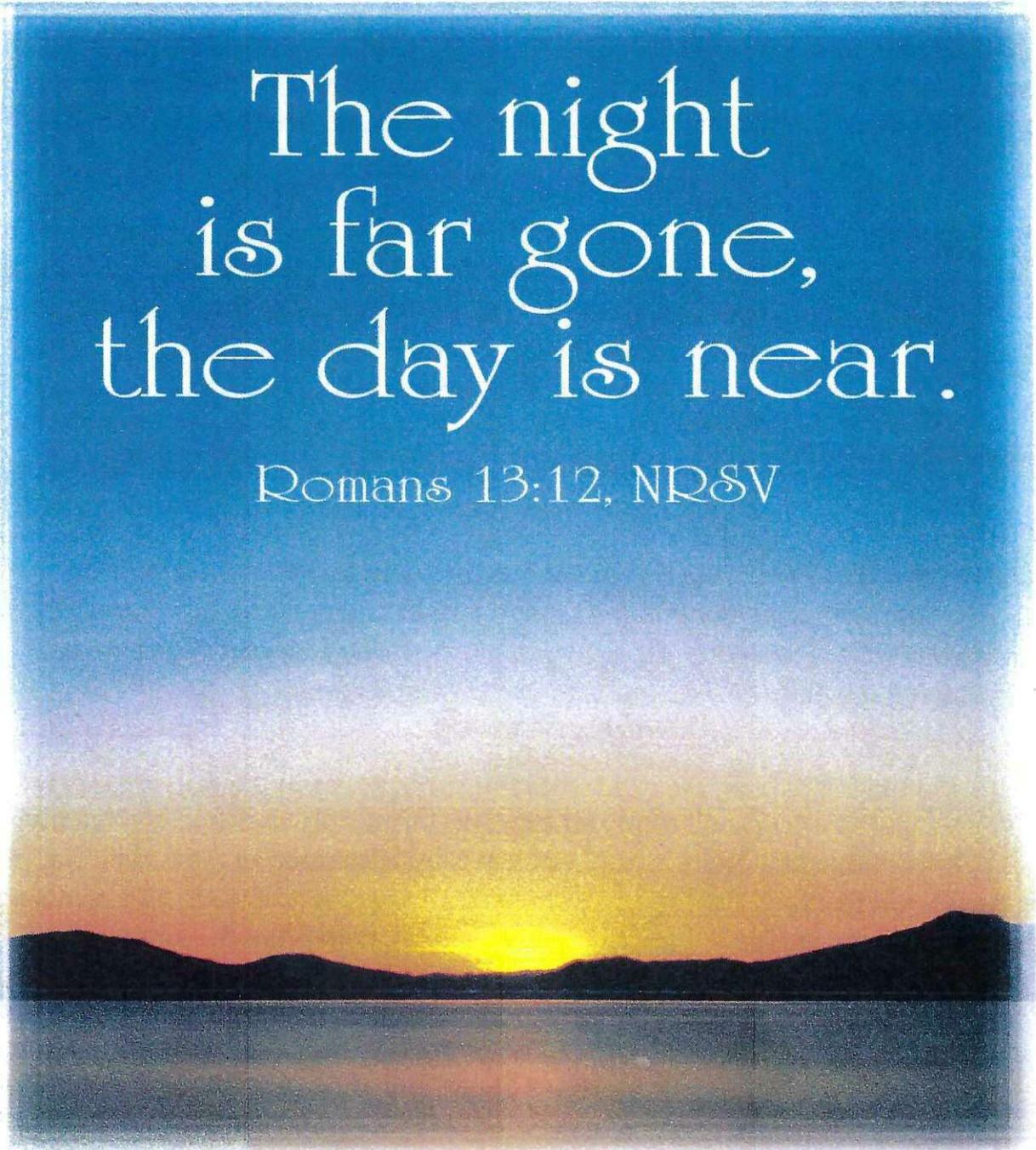


# **Christ Lutheran Church**

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Hillsboro, Texas

The night  
is far gone,  
the day is near.

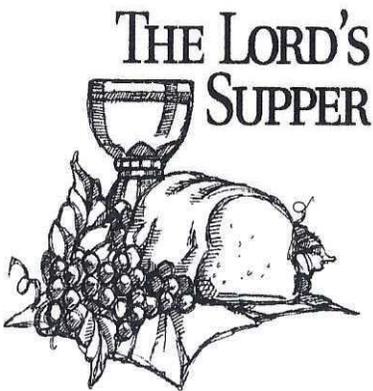
Romans 13:12, NRSV



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**  
November 30, 2025

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

"The King shall come when morning dawns." These are the words of one of today's hymns. They speak of that day when Jesus will come again in judgment and to take his people home. We sing them during Advent in preparation for our annual celebration of another morning that has already dawned. In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, Jesus came not only as a child born in a stable but as our Savior who entered Jerusalem to die on a cross. Jesus was born in darkness and He died in darkness to bring light into our dark world and into the sin-filled darkness of our hearts. Jesus is the Light of the world. He came to die for our sins and rise for our life. He comes to us today to bring us forgiveness and peace in His Word, in His body and in His blood. And He will come again in all of His glory. Come, Lord Jesus!



## THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

*Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

## ✚ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✚

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

*Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.*

### Welcome

*Psalm 118:24*

**P:** This is the day the LORD has made.

**C:** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

### Announcements

### Opening Hymn

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331

**The advent of our King, our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing, in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son, incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on, to set His servants free.**

**O Zion's daughter rise, to meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise, the peace He comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again,  
And His true members all unite, with Him in heav'n to reign.**

**Before the dawning day, let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.**

**All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one, through all eternity.**

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *(sung)* **A - - - men**

## Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

## Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 122

P: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

C: **Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

P: Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

C: **There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.**

P: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"

C: **For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"**

P: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sung)* **And also with you.**

### Opening Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** **Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for your coming.  
Come, Lord Jesus, with your grace and fill our hearts and our homes with your  
presence and your peace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Lift up your heads, O you gates, that the King of glory may come in.** Psalm 24:7, 9

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Lift up your heads, O you gates, that the King of glory may come in.** Psalm 24:7, 9

## Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Dearest Jesus, we are here, gladly Your command obeying.  
With this child we now draw near, in response to Your own saying,  
That to You it shall be given, as a child and heir of heaven.**

**Your command is clear and plain, and we would obey it duly:  
"You must all be born again, heart and life renewing truly,  
Born of water and the Spirit, and My kingdom thus inherit."**

**Therefore we have come to You, in our arms this infant bearing.  
Truly here Your grace we view. May this child, Your mercy sharing,  
In Your arms be shielded ever, Yours on earth and Yours forever.**

**Gracious Head, Your member own. Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it.  
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne. Way of Life, to heaven lead it.  
Precious Vine, let nothing sever, from Your side this branch forever.**

**Now into Your heart we pour, prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav'nward soar. May our hearts' desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given. Write it in the book of heaven!**

Baptism of Laura Lynn Cunningham

LSB 268-271

Sermon Hymn

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

LSB 350

**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.**

**Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine, when Thou art my guest divine!**

**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

**BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**  
Romans 13:11-14

Rev. Curtis Schneider

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offertory (*sung*)

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,**

**In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Offering (*Take this time to greet those seated near you with a handshake and the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you."*)

*[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]*

## Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

- P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

## Prayers

### ✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

#### *VISITORS and MEMBERS*

*Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.*

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**ALL: 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.**

## Words of Our Lord

*Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my  $\text{\textcircled{X}}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."**

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my  $\text{\textcircled{X}}$  blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

*John 20:19*

**C: (sung) A - men.**

## Agnus Dei (sung)

*John 1:29*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

## Distribution Hymns

**"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"**

**LSB 348**

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

**Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun, that lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn, when Christ, victorious, rose,  
And left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.**

**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!**

**“O God of God, O Light of Light”**

**LSB 810**

**O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heaven’s glory bright, the song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, the Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, all thanks and praise! Amen, amen.**

**For deep in prophets’ sacred page, and grand in poets’ winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age, the nations saw their coming Lord.  
Till through the deep Judean night, rang out the song, “Goodwill to men!”  
Sung once by firstborn sons of light, it echoes now, “Goodwill!” Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love, that death so steeped in hate and scorn –  
These all are past, and now above, He reigns our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.**

**Then raise to Christ a mighty song, and shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav’nly host, your praise prolong, and all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, all glory, pow’r! Amen, amen.**

**“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”**

**LSB 395**

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light  
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,  
Our Lord and master, You have won, our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o’er all possessing!**

**Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine  
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be,  
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily, earth's deep sadness, may perplex us, and distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

**Lord, when You look on us in love, at once there falls from God above,  
A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood,  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy, warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us,  
God's own love through You has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in Your Son, You loved us when not yet begun,  
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love,  
To live in Him here and above. This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living, to us giving, life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way –  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place, beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning,  
For the day of Your returning!**

Song of Thanksgiving

“Thank the Lord”

*Psalm 100*

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all  
who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in this Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of his coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **A - men, A - men, A - - men.**

## Closing Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

LSB 801

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made.  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

**REFRAIN Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.**

**REFRAIN Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

**REFRAIN      Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
                  How great thou art! How great thou art!  
                  Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
                  How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim:  
“My God, how great thou art!”**

**REFRAIN      Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
                  How great thou art! How great thou art!  
                  Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee.  
                  How great thou art! How great thou art!**

### **TO OUR VISITORS**

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please fill out a *Welcome to Worship* card (w/ address) and place it in the offering or give it to an usher. God's peace be with you and come again!

**CLC MISSION STATEMENT:** “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word, sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”