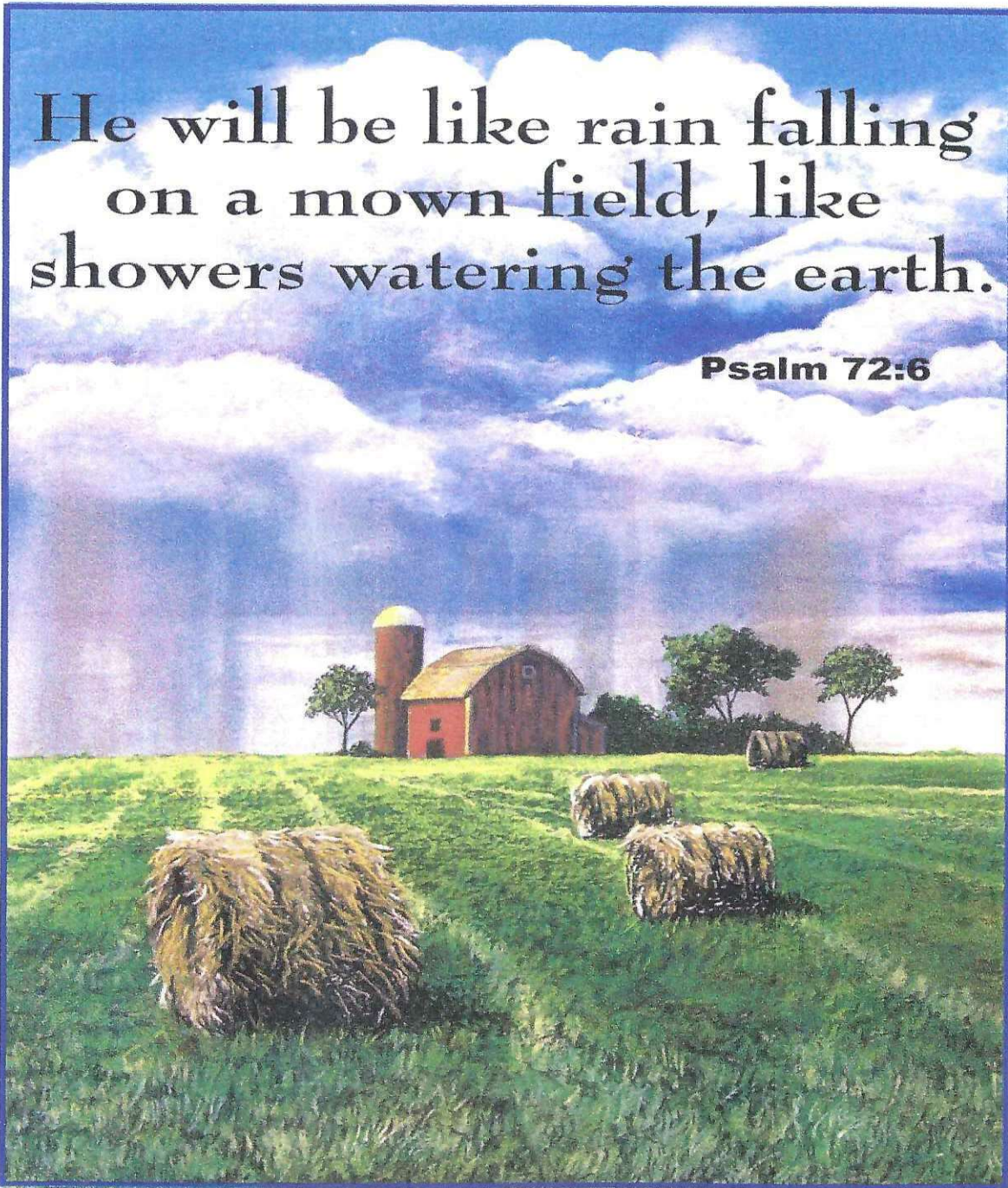


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

He will be like rain falling
on a mown field, like
showers watering the earth.

Psalm 72:6



2nd Sunday in Advent
HERE COMES THE RAIN!
December 7, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: HERE COMES THE RAIN!

Today's readings from God's Word remind us that now is the time to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. Like dark clouds in the sky before a rainstorm, the Old Testament scriptures were a warning and a promise to God's people. They proclaimed the coming of the righteous branch who would come from the root of Jesse. This righteous branch was later born in Bethlehem, the city of David, the son of Jesse. This righteous branch was proclaimed by John the Baptist who said, "Prepare the way for the Lord." And this righteous branch, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, comes to us today through His Word and in the sacrament of His body and His blood, to forgive our sins and to prepare us for eternal life with Him.



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

Presentation/Dedication of New Flags

In MEMORY of Marvin Mertink

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

**On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry, announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and hearken, for he brings, glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin. Make straight the way for God within.
And let us all our hearts prepare, for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward.
Without Thy grace we waste away, like flow’rs that wither and decay.**

**Lay on the sick Thy healing hand, and make the fallen strong to stand.
Show us the glory of Thy face, till beauty springs in ev’ry place.**

(STAND) **All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.**

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 72:1-7

P: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

C: **May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!**

P: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

C: **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

P: May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

C: **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**

P: In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

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.

Veni, Emmanuel *(sung)* "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 (v.1, 4)

**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, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, and give them victo'ry o'er the grave.
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.**

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: **Almighty God, Judge and King, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
for your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with your grace and fill us with your Spirit.
Clothe us with your righteousness, your faithfulness, your love and your peace,
that we live as your people in this world and forever with you in heaven; for you
live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume 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. 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."

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"When All the World was Cursed"

LSB 346

**When all the world was cursed, by Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came, with words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal, the greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, as Savior he proclaimed.**

**Before he yet was born, he leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord, whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, a new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him, of whom the prophets told.**

**Behold the Lamb of God, that bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes, the devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy, will full atonement win.**

**O grant, dear Lord of love, that we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, our true repentance voicing.
That gladly we may walk, upon our Savior's way,
Until we live with Him, in His eternal day.**

Sermon

HERE COMES THE RAIN!

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 *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

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 . . .

In the same way also he took the cup after supper . . .

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.**

**“Comfort, comfort ye My People, speak ye peace,” thus saith our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem, of the peace that waits for them.
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.”**

**Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed.
All that well deserved His anger, He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away.
God will change her pining sadness, into everlasting gladness.**

**Hark, the herald’s voice is crying, in the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.**

**Make ye straight what long was crooked. Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord, now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token, that His Word is never broken.**

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353

**Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, came with peace from realms on high.
Jesus came to win redemption, lowly came on earth to die.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.**

**Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are worn with care.
Jesus comes again in answer, to an earnest, heartfelt prayer.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.**

**Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiv’n.
Jesus comes with words of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.**

**Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, shares alike our hopes and fears.
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, cheers our hearts and dries our tears.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.**

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham.
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM.
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light of life You bring to all.
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul.
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be.
Quench our thirst with living water, springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, from the stump of Jesse’s tree.
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches, to bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior. Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard, till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep.
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home.
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us. Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unfailing, to the Father’s home on high.
Christ the truth that frees the captive. Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

(STAND) **Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ, the Church’s glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration, and unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

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: God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we would serve you at all times; 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

“Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment”

LSB 511 [Tune: 367]

**Herald, sound the note of judgment, warning us of right and wrong,
Turning us from sin and sadness, till once more we sing the song.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message: Christ, the Savior king, is come!**

**Herald, sound the note of gladness. Tell the news that Christ is here.
Make a pathway through the desert, for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message: Christ, the Savior king, is come!**

**Herald, sound the note of pardon – Those repenting are forgiv’n.
God receives His wayward children, and to them new life is giv’n.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message: Christ, the Savior king, is come!**

**Herald, sound the note of triumph. Christ has come to share our life.
Bringing God’s own love and power, granting vict’ry in our strife.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message: Christ, the Savior king, is come!**

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.”