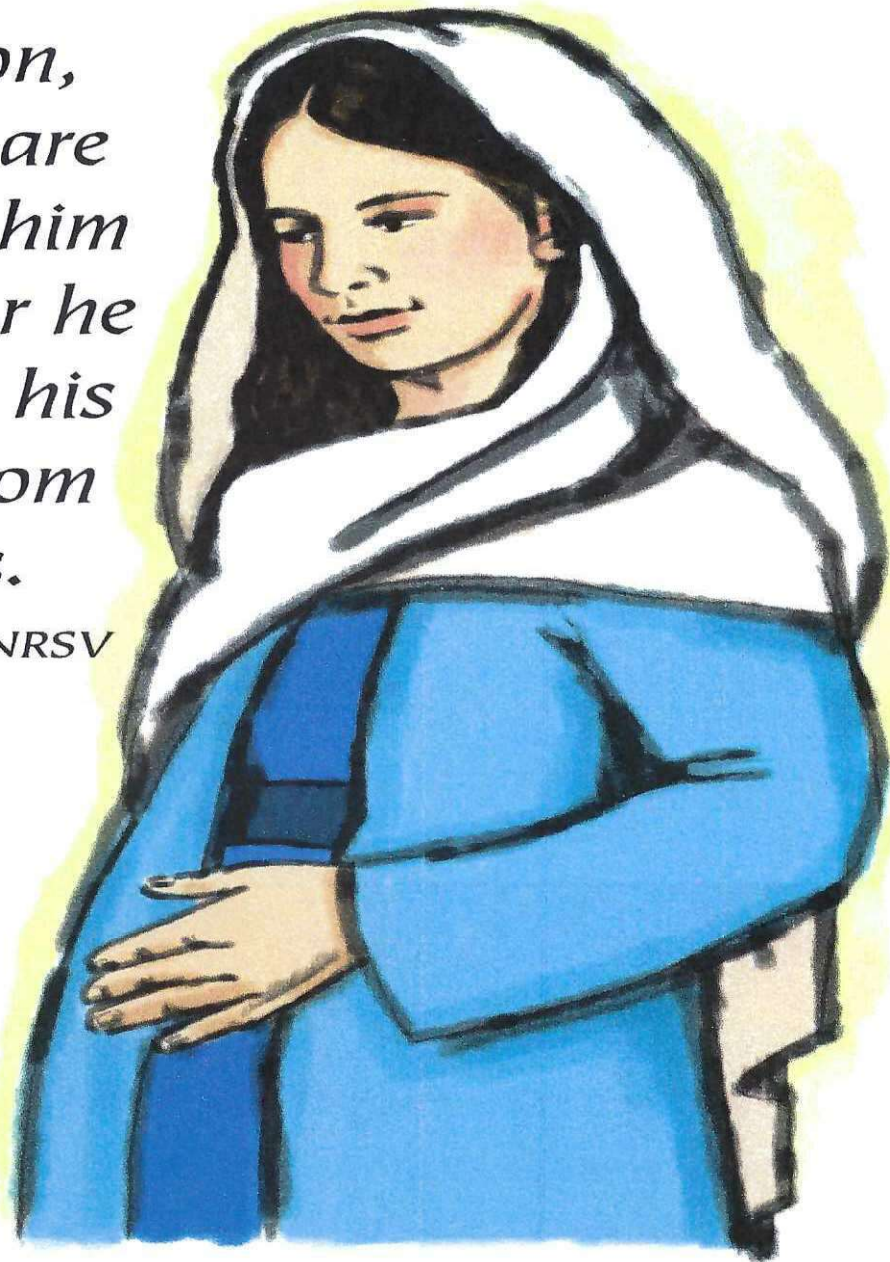


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

*She will
bear a son,
and you are
to name him
Jesus, for he
will save his
people from
their sins.*

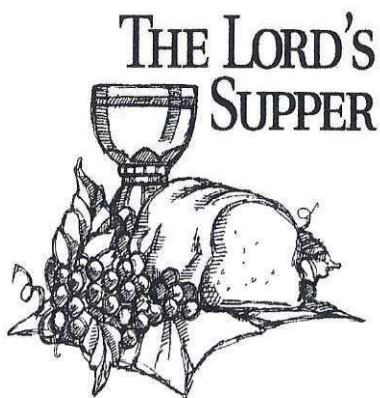
Matthew 1:21, NRSV



4th Sunday in Advent
WHAT CHILD IS THIS?
December 21, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Christmas is almost here! As we prepare to celebrate a very special birth, there are some announcements we should remember. The first announcement is when the mother finds out she is pregnant. The prophet Isaiah announces that the virgin will give birth. And neither an over-the-counter pregnancy test nor a doctor, but the angel Gabriel tells Mary she will have a child. The second big announcement is if the baby is a boy or a girl. The angel tells Joseph about the child, "a son", in Mary's womb. And the third big announcement is the naming of the child. Isaiah, the angel, and then Joseph, give us two of His names, "Immanuel" ("God with us") and "Jesus" ("Savior"). In Jesus, God is with us to save us from our sins so that we can live knowing that He is with us today and that we will live with Him forever in heaven!



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

"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

LSB 900

**Jesus! Name of wondrous love, name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee, bow in deep humility.**

**Jesus! Name decreed of old, to the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, by the angel Gabriel.**

**Jesus! Name of priceless worth, to the fallen of the earth,
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."**

**Jesus! Name of mercy mild, given to the holy Child,
When the cup of human woe, first He tasted here below.**

**Jesus! Only name that's giv'n, under all the mighty heav'n,
Whereby those to sin enslaved, burst their fetters and are saved.**

**Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above.
Pleading only this, we flee, helpless, O our God, to Thee.**

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 24

P: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

C: For he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

P: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

P: He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

C: Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

P: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

C: Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

P: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

ALL: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

**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 Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
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.

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Almighty God, Judge and King, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with your grace, to all the places of the world where people desperately need you. Come and give us the gift of yourself. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

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

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

**Savior of the nations, come, virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh – woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Here a maid was found with child, yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.**

**Then stepped forth the Lord of all, from His pure and kingly hall.
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.**

Sermon

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Sermon Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LSB 332 (v.1, 5-8)

**Savior of the nations, come, virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**God the Father was His source, back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, back then to His throne and crown.**

**For You are the Father’s Son, who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole, all our ills of flesh and soul.**

**From the manger newborn light, shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides. In this light, faith now abides.**

(STAND) **Glory to the Father sing. Glory to the Son, our king.
Glory to the Spirit be. Now and through eternity.**

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.")*

[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, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have given us a new revelation of your glory that, seeing you in the person of your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things that are not seen. 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 ✠ 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 α 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

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near. The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring. Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise, your joyful songs of praise.**

**A righteous Helper comes to thee. His chariot is humility.
His kingly crown is holiness. His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings. Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise, your grateful hymns of praise.**

**How blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes, to whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He, who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise, your happy shouts of praise.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart. Make it a temple set apart,
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in, and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise, for word and deed and grace!**

**Redeemer, come and open wide, my heart to Thee, here Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine. Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame, we offer to Thy name.**

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358

**"From heav'n above to earth I come, to bear good news to ev'ry home.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:**

**"To you this night is born a child, of Mary, chosen virgin mild.
This little child of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth."**

**"This is the Christ, our God Most High, who hears your sad and bitter cry.
He will Himself your Savior be, from all your sins to set you free."**

**"He will on you the gifts bestow, prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us His glory share."**

**"These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes the manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid, by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."**

**How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go,
To see what God for us has done, in sending us His own dear Son.**

**Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.**

**Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery, that You might share Your joy with me.**

**Ah, Lord, though You created all, how weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head, where lowly cattle lately fed!**

**Were earth a thousand times as fair, and set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small, a cradle for the Lord of all.**

**Instead of soft and silken stuff, You have but hay and straw so rough,
On which as King, so rich and great, to be enthroned in royal state.**

**And so it pleases You to see, this simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth and might, are weak and worthless in Your sight.**

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart, for You to dwell within my heart.**

**My heart for very joy must leap. My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue, that sweetest ancient cradle song:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth, a glad new year to all the earth.**

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 our Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness
sent your 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 be enabled
to serve you constantly; 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.

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”
“Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by. Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth. Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

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.”