

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



All who heard him were amazed...

Luke 2:47, NRSV

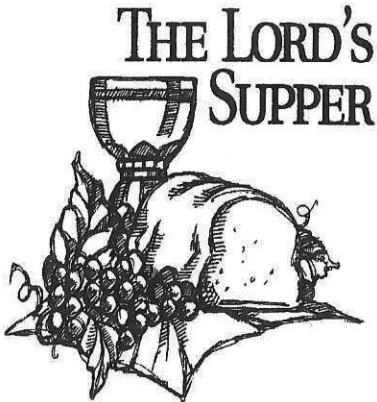
2nd Sunday after Christmas

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE FACE OF JESUS?

January 5, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE FACE OF JESUS?

Today's message from God's Word is about wisdom. God wants us to ask for wisdom. He desires that we constantly ask for, come to receive, listen to, learn from, and teach to others, the wisdom that He gives to us through His holy Word. God's wisdom came as a child, a child who "grew in wisdom" as he entered His Father's house, the temple, and listened to the teachers of the law and the readings of the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus, the incarnate Word of God (God in the flesh) now brings His wisdom to us as he speaks to us, fills us with His forgiveness and strengthens our faith so that we are prepared for life today and for eternity.



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 – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LSB 904

**Blessed Jesus, at Your Word, we are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred, now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love You solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight, lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Your Spirit breaks our night, with the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us. You must work all good within us.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Open now our heart and mind. Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises. Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

**Father, Son and Spirit, Lord, praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, till we sing Your praises yonder.**

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.**

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 119:97-104

P: Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

C: **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

P: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

C: **I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.**

P: I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

C: **I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.**

P: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C: **Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

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.

Hymn of Praise

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

[AGPS 247]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**I will not forget your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

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

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord Jesus, you stayed behind in your Father's house to listen to the teachers of the law and learn from them. Direct us in all our actions by your gracious favor and, by your Holy Spirit, cause us to grow in the wisdom of your salvation as we listen to and study your holy Word; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

1 Kings 3:4-15

King Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you."

"I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Psalm 119:105

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** Psalm 119:105

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 2:39-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

When Joseph and Mary had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child (named Jesus) grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

LSB 589

**Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, let Your Word to me come near.
Newborn life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, wars against Your Word of life.
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor, that I cling to You forever!**

**Oh, what blessing to be near You, and to listen to Your voice.
Let me ever love and hear You, let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at Your Word.
But to all who feel sin's burden, You give words of peace and pardon.**

**Lord, Your words are waters living, when my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving, on Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light, through death's cold and dreary night.
Yes, they are my sword prevailing, and my cup of joy unfailing!**

**As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me, let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me, that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given, in the endless joy of heaven.**

Sermon

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE FACE OF JESUS?

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 . . .

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 “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

LSB 637

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord, and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**

**He who His saints in this world rules and shields, to all believers life eternal yields.
With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry whole, gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**

**Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, and take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow, as in this feast of love You bless us now.**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB 850

**God of grace and God of glory, on Your people pour Your pow’r.
Crown Your ancient Church’s story. Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us, scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.
For the living of these days.**

**Cure Your children’s warring madness. Bend our pride to Your control.
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation, to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of Your salvation, be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving You whom we adore.
Serving You whom we adore.**

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

LSB 540

**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.**

**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.**

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

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

"O Word of God Incarnate"

LSB 523

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance, that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**The Church from You, dear Master, received the gift divine.
And still that light is lifted, o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass, that all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to You.**

**O make Your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold,
To bear before the nations, Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims, by this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face!**

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."