

## Christ the Rock Lutheran Church

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### First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

#### **SERVICE THEME: God's Faithful Intervention in our Lives Connects us to an Eternal Life with Him**

As we enter this Advent season we are reminded of the coming of Jesus at the end of the world. If we are seriously looking at our sins, we would have plenty cause for fear and worry. But our lessons focus on the faithfulness of God, who calls himself our Father and himself takes care of all the details. Instead of feeling down, by God's grace we see the richness we have in Christ and the gifts we have to serve him in these last days.



# HYMN

# “Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Christian Worship #2*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -  
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of  
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing  
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

STAND

## INVOCATION

*(The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.)*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## CONFESSION

**M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY** *Kyrie*

*Mark 10:47*

**M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **SALUTATION**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray.

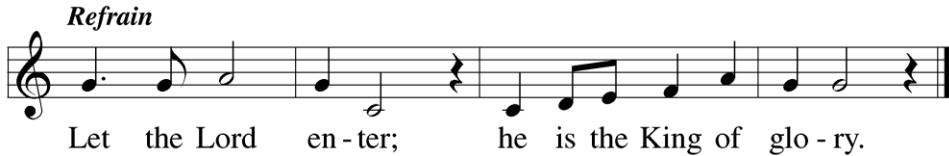
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 24



Minister: The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,

**Congregation: the world, and all who live in it;**

for he founded it upon the seas

**and established it upon the waters.**

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

**Who may stand in his holy place?**

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

**he will receive blessing from God his Savior.**

*Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates;

**be lifted up, you ancient doors,**

**that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The LORD strong and mighty,**

**the LORD mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates;

**lift them up, you ancient doors,**

**that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

**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.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

## 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.

7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### STAND

*(The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.)*

## GOSPEL

## Mark 13:32-37

**M:** The Gospel according to **Mark** chapter **Thirteen**.

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### BE SEATED

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## “When Sinners See Their Lost Condition”

*Christian Worship #32*

**1** When sinners see their lost condition And feel the pressing load of sin  
And Jesus comes on his blest mission To heal the sin-sick heart within,  
All grief must flee before his grace, And joy divine will take its place.

**3** When Jesus enters land and nation And changes people with his love,  
When, yielding to his kind persuasion, Our hearts his truth and blessing prove,  
Then shall our life on earth be blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.

**4** When Jesus comes—O blessed story—He works a change in heart and life;  
God’s kingdom comes with pow’r and glory To young and old, to man and wife.  
Through sacrament and living Word Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.

## SERMON

Isaiah 63:16b, 17; 64:1-8

*Heavenly Father: rip open the heavens and come down!*

**16** LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

**17** Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.

**1** Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

**2** As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

**3** For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

**4** Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

**5** You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

**6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

**7** No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

**8** Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

STAND

## **NICENE CREED**

*(Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **OFFERING**

*Please use the offering plate at the back of the church  
or visit [ChristTheRockLutheran.com](http://ChristTheRockLutheran.com) and click on "Online Giving" to give an offering.*

*STAND*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be ashamed of our hope but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Gracious Lord, enrich Your saints in every way as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed again among us. Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew, our Synod president; *Mark Schroeder*, our district president; *Phillip Hirsch*, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. As You have called us into the fellowship of Your Son, so sustain us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace and order in our nation. Hear our prayers for our president, our governor; our military and police; and other civil servants as well as all newly elected officials. Increase a spirit of unity and cooperation among the people of our land and the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn, and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

*(The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.)*

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*(Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26].)*

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25*

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.*

*STAND*

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*(The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.*

*The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].)*

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

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CLOSING HYMN

**“God’s Only Child, I Gladly Say It”**

*Sing stanzas 1, 2 and 5*

*Christian Worship Supplement #737*



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it:  
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er:  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion:  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have -  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I  
 To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -  
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing  
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so  
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it  
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures  
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science  
 soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've  
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and  
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y  
 seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me  
 trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,  
 ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:  
 rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,  
 In a dear for - giv - ing flood,  
 And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,  
 Bap - tism has the strength di - vine  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 To make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 I'm a child of par - a - dise!

### IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- **Dennis and Jane Bacon**, prayers for comfort and care due to poor health
- **Willie Mitchell**, health and care; admitted to the ICU this week
- **Herdranne Herrera**, prayers for comfort and her health after contracting Covid
- **Vinnie and Ben Henry**, Ben had surgery, Vinnie and family are tending to his aftercare
- **Marianne, Caroline and Daniel**, as they grieve the one-year anniversary of Dan's death
- **Marianne and her family** for comfort after the passing of her Uncle David and for Aunt Sue in Tucson, receiving treatment for Covid-19. Also for her cousin Kelly and her husband Greg as they care for their mom and overcome Covid themselves
- **Gwen and Chuck Johnson**, friends of Aaron and Myra. Chuck has Stage 3 lung cancer
- **Dave Branch**, that he would receive surgery soon and that God would bless the operation
- **Family of Amoret DeField**, comfort, newborn Amoret died last month
- **Delfin Ulibarri**, comfort that God would bless his healing back Farmington for rehabilitation
- **Marianne's friend Ginny's niece**, Kallie and her husband, their 6 year-old son died in August
- **Kay Ulibarri, Luci and Lysa**, God's blessings for comfort and strength as they care for each other and Delfin
- **Maggie Donohue**, thanksgiving for healing and strength after surgery. She is "on track" for recovery
- **Armond**, Maggie's son, prayers as he visits his father, Scott receiving hospice in OR
- **Ryan**, grandson of Jeff and Mona Blagg, thank God for continued healing progress.
- **Fred Bunselmeyer**, Maggie's father-in-law, health and care at Wellbrook Rehabilitation
- **Christ the Rock**, members and leaders as we transition our ministry
- **Mary and Martin**, mother and brother in-law of Ginger, both have cancer
- **Bea Peshlakai**, care and comfort for her health

### God's People Respond to God's Grace

**Worship Attendance**    November 22: No Count                      Sunday School: 02    Bible Study: NC  
**Offering**                      November 22: \$1180

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Vacancy Pastor Emeritus Paul Hartman** (and wife Carol) will continue to serve as our vacancy pastor until at least mid-December. Pastor's contact, (915) 637-4290

**A voter's meeting will be held at 4:00 PM, when a call will be extended for a pastor.** The members of the church council are asked to attend in person. Other members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall so that it can be projected on the television and viewed via ZOOM. Don Linskens will send by email the link for attending via ZOOM.

**Sunday Adult Bible class, 9:15 am**, we will continue our study of "The Church's Mission" and consider ways we can participate in the ministry of proclaiming the gospel to the people in our community.