

4th Sunday of Advent

11:00am

DECEMBER 22, 2024



Christ Lutheran Church

2011 Brandon Ave SW
(540)982-8334

Roanoke, VA 24015
www.christlutheranroanoke.org
www.facebook.com/christlutheranroanoke

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

PRELUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Michael Costello

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

HYMN ELW #264

Prepare the Royal Highway



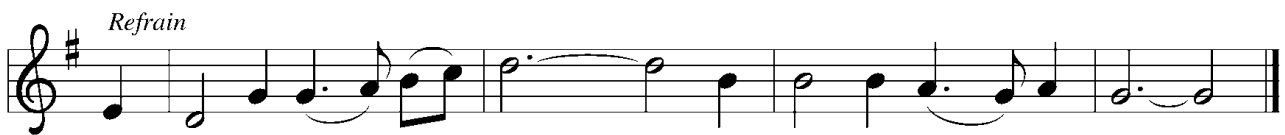
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

REETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257



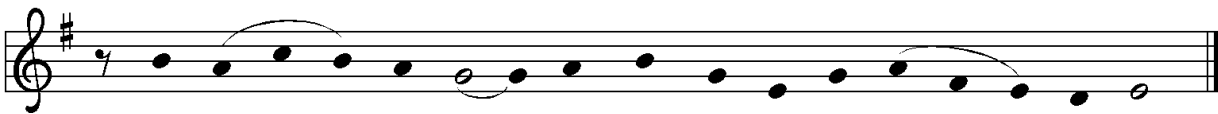
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible Page 756

After the reading: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Luke 1:46b-55

The refrain is sung by ALL at the beginning and where indicated (R).

Fine print verses sung by cantor; bold print sung by ALL.

R



You, LORD, have lift - ed up the low - ly.

46^b My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
47 my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
48 **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

49 you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

50 **You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation. R

51 You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
52 **casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.

53 You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

54 **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

55 the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

Pew Bible Page 976

After the reading: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible Page 831

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

Silence for meditation

Stand

HYMN ELW #265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (see page 12)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "peace be with you" or similar words.

Sit

MEAL

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Choir Anthem

Magnificat

Ruth Elaine Schram

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Mighty and holy, he has exalted the lowly,
Filled the hungry and scattered the proud.
He has remembered his servant.*

Stand

OFFERTORY

“Let All Mortal Flesh”



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. **Thanks be to God!**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD

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.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament of our Lord's body and blood.

**Beginning from the front pews, you are invited to come forward using the center aisle. Return to your seat using the side aisle.*

**As you turn onto the side aisle, please leave your cup in the silver tray.*

**Let the pastor or communion assistant know you would prefer grape juice and/or gluten free bread.*

**Please let the ushers know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew.*

**If you prefer, you may use an individual cup-set in your pew, opening the bread section first, then the juice!*

**Children who do not yet commune may come forward to receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #272

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (see page 13)

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW#313

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW #248

People, Look East (see page 14)

All turn to face the processional cross during the hymn.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The Angel Gabriel

Jacob Weber

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship
7:00pm

Festival Music, Children's Message,
Holy Communion, Candlelight



Offering: Thank you for continuing to give of your finances to support Christ Lutheran Church and our community ministries.



Giving options are:

- 1) **QR Code** (*secure.myvanco.com*), takes you to the General Fund to donate. This option is helpful to create automatic recurring donations.
- 2) You can put your check in the **US postal** service to the church address.
- 3) Share your offering when the **plate** is passed during the service.

www.christlutheranroanoke.org

STAFF OF CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministers	All the People of Christ Church
Pastor	The Rev. Cynthia Keyser
Church Office Administrator	Fiona Schulz
Organist/Director of Music	Nancy Delaney
New Song Music Minister	Kim Mucha
Director, Noah's Landing Preschool	Diana Pilat

Serving Today 11am:

Acolytes: Denman & Landon Blanchard, **Advent Wreath:** Blanchard family

Greeters: Jean Weber, Becky Smith, **Usher:** Sue Vail,

Communion Assists: Betty Mory, Jean Weber, **Reader:** Betty Mory,

Flower Delivery: Mark Shelton, **Communique:** Thursday January 23 @ 9am, Sue Berry, Helen Kleven, Alice Spoerl and Buck Buchanan.

The Altar Flowers: *Given in memory of Greg Freeman's birthday by the Freeman family.*

Please sign up on the Flower Chart located opposite the Preschool office door or email Fiona in the church office. All Altar Flowers given in donations (\$65.00) from the members and guests of Christ Lutheran Church.

Children's Bulletins: Activity bulletins based on today's readings are found as you enter the Narthex when picking up service bulletin and communion, emails sent out each week with the Children's bulletin attached.

Parlor for Parents & Infants/Preschoolers: Our Parlor has been set up as space for you to come during 11:00am worship time if you need to bring your child out for a while during the service. We have child proofed the room and provided a basket with books & toys. Speakers are in the room so you can continue to follow the worship service. Please let the Ushers/Greeters know if you need assistance.

Worship Kits: These are age-appropriate activity kits for use during the service that are available next to the main doors in the Narthex. Tan colored kits are for pre-school children and the brown kits are for early elementary.

Devotionals: for the 1st Quarter 2025, January, February, and March are available in the Narthex.

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The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.