





# ADVENT

## **SERVICE NOTES — ADVENT**

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ.

# CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*He Did It All!*

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## **Those Who Serve**

Keyboard: Michele LaRocque

DECEMBER 11, 2016

ADVENT 3

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word. Please take a moment to sign our guest register as you leave this morning.

- ✓ **A Staffed Nursery** is available for your use at any time during the service. It is located down the hallway to the right as you exit the gymnasium by the water fountains.
- ✓ **A Cry-Room** area is available if your little ones need a moment. Simply use the hallway located out the gymnasium doors by the water fountains.
- ✓ **Restrooms** are located in the hallway as you exit the gymnasium by the water fountains.



TODAY'S THEME:

REJOICE AT THE LORD'S COMING  
DELIVERANCE

# THE GATHERING RITE:<sup>1</sup>

**Refrain**

Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

**Choir: Refrain**

**All: Refrain**

Choir: Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of your salvation.

**All: Refrain**

Cantor: Lord, you are hope and healing for our world, now, bring us your good news.

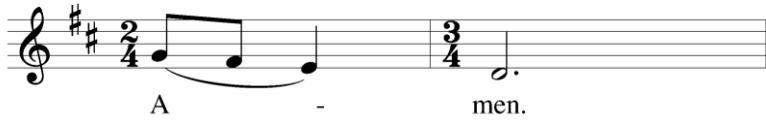
**All: Refrain**

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<sup>1</sup> Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent the *Gloria* is replaced by the gathering rites for the season.

## GREETING:

L(eader): In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



L: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.



## CONFESSION OF SINS

L: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

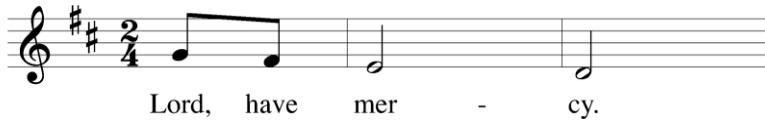
L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

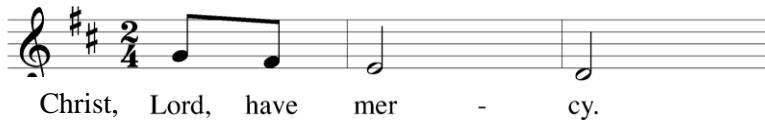
## LORD, HAVE MERCY

### *Kyrie*

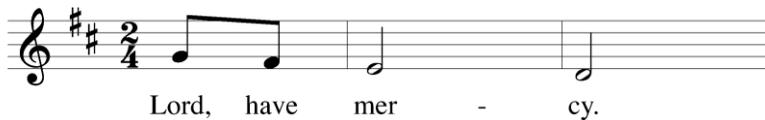
L: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.



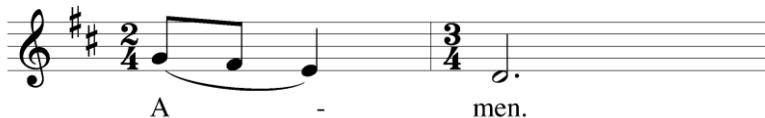
L: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



L: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



L: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

*The leader says the Prayer of the Day.*

C: **Amen.**

# THE WORD OF GOD

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17

- <sup>14</sup> Sing, O Daughter of Zion;  
shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
O Daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
"Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing."

# GREAT O ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT

*For at least 1300 years the Church has sung the Great O Antiphons of Advent beginning on December 17 and culminating before Christmas Eve. Each antiphon sings of an Old Testament title of the Messiah and calls on Christ to come and fulfill his work. The familiar hymn by John Neale, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, is an adaptation of the O Antiphons.*

*The seven antiphons are:*

*O Sapientia (Wisdom)*

*O Adonai (Lord)*

*O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)*

*O Clavis David (Key of David)*

*O Oriens (Dayspring)*

*O Rex Gentium (King of the nations)*

*O Emmanuel (God-with-us)*

*The first letter of each antiphon, read backwards, spells ero cras, "Tomorrow I will come."*

*The leader prays at the altar, and the congregation sings the appropriate stanza.*

L: Let us pray.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Congregation sings*

**C: Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

L: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law of Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might, who to your tribes of Sinai's height  
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

- L: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.
- C: Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem. From every foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty pow'r to save: Bring them in victory through the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- L: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- L: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: Oh, come O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- L: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.
- C: Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be yourself the King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- L: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.
- C: Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

## **SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree.*

*It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath.*

*Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became wide spread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.*

### **THE VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.  
Alleluia. —Matthew 11:10*

### **GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup>John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And

what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

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

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #14, *Arise, O Christian People***

**THE SERMON:**

Rejoice Always in All Ways!

1. In the Lord
2. The Lord is near

Philippians 4:4-7

## THE MAGNIFICAT:<sup>2</sup>

### *Refrain*

Pro - claim - the great-ness of God; re - joi - ce in God, my  
Sav - ior! Re - joi - ce in God my Sav - ior!

Cantor: Refrain

**All: Refrain**

Cantor: For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.  
The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **Refrain**

Cantor: He favors those who fear his name, in every generation.  
He has shown the might and strength of his arm, and scattered the proud of  
heart. **Refrain**

Cantor: He has cast the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with all good gifts, and sent the rich away. **Refrain**

Cantor: He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy.  
He promised his mercy to Abraham and his children forevermore. **Refrain**

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<sup>2</sup>The Magnificat is the title given to Mary's song recorded in Luke 1:46-55. The title is based on the first word of this song in the Latin, "**magnificat** anima mea Dominum," or my soul **magnifies** the Lord.

# THANKSGIVING

## THE OFFERING:

*The members of Christ Alone Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**C: 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.**

### THE LORD'S BLESSING

**L:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: #540, Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete* (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday. We close our service today rejoicing in anticipation of the coming Savior.

# Announcements

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**Welcome Visitors and Guests:** We are glad that you are with us this morning, and we pray that you will worship with us again soon. God's richest blessings to you!

## **December 11 - 18:**

Today	9:15AM	Sunday School; Bible Class
	10:30AM	Worship
	4:00PM	Girl Pioneers Christmas Caroling
Tuesday	5:00PM	Congregational Canvass
Wednesday	5:45PM	Confirmation
Sunday	9:15AM	Sunday School; Bible Class
	10:30AM	Worship – Lesson and Carols

**Faithbuilders Class:** Our Faithbuilders class is for people interested in becoming members of Christ Alone, or for people just looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. A new class will begin soon! If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Seager. Free childcare is available.

**Congregational Canvass:** We'll gather at Kay Granger this Tuesday at 5:00pm to canvass the area for our Christmas Eve service. Try to arrive 15 minutes early to receive brief instructions. Canvassing will last one hour. No talking is required. Kids are welcome.

**Poinsettias for Christmas:** Sign up to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas Eve; it will beautify our worship space. Sign up through the Signup Genius send by Lisa Bartels. The poinsettia will be yours to take on Christmas Eve. Thank you!

**Christmas Eve:** Our big outreach at Christ Alone during the Christmas season is our Christmas Eve Candlelight service held on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm here at Kay Granger. Consider this an opportunity in your personal outreach and witness. Please pray that the Lord would bring many more people to hear his saving Christmas message.

# THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, AT 7:00PM**

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

Come and hear the story of God's greatest gift to you. This Christmas join us to remember the night when God changed the world by sending his Son as our Savior. Our worship will feature and inspiring message, favorite Christmas carols, and a place to connect with Jesus, God's greatest gift for you. A Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, AT 10:30AM**

## **The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord**

Join us to celebrate the incarnation of the Son of God. The Church across the world remembers the gift of God the Father when he sent his Son to take on flesh and blood. We will marvel at the mystery that is Immanuel, God with us.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST, AT 10:30AM**

## **The Festival of the Name of Jesus**

Come and join us as we celebrate the naming of Jesus at his circumcision eight days after his birth, in keeping with God's law. We'll celebrate the name, Jesus, which means "savior."

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, AT 10:30AM**

## **The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord**

The Twelve Days of Christmas end with the festival of Epiphany. On this day we remember how God guided Gentiles to their Savior with a special star. While Epiphany formally fall on January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will observe it on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

# December - January Volunteer Schedules

## Sunday

Sunday	Friendship Register		Nursery	Video Taping
Dec 4	Ashley Horn	Nathan Covarrubias	G. Rogish/C. Bassler	Stas Snapp
Dec 11	Grant Thowe	Ava Narten	Lecker/Covarrubias	Christopher Gross
Dec 18	Pejah Berens	Gabrielle Fleisher	Fleisher/Bartels	Dalton Gross
Dec 24	Luke Siegler	Joshua Siegler	Cry Room Open	Dominic Gross
Dec 25	Addison Fleisher	Nadia Covarrubias	Cry Room Open	Peter Sampe
Jan 1	Jessica Horn	Isaac Murry	Murry/Lewis	Garrett Bartels
Jan 8	Samantha Fleisher	Aurora DeAmicis	J. Sampe/Gross	Dylan Sampe
Jan 15	Brenden Eicksteadt	Eliana Seager	L.Thowe/G.Rogish	Julia Sampe
Jan 22	Max Narten	Ava Narten	C. Bassler/Covarrubias	Micah Berens
Jan 29	Grant Thowe	Nathan Covarrubias	Fleisher/Lecker	Stas Snapp

## Ushering Teams

December				January			
<b>Brown</b>	<b>Matt</b>	Collura	Alex	<b>Horn</b>	<b>John</b>	Berens	Chad
Gross	Chris(AV)	Narten	Don	Murry	Keith (AV)	Covarrubias	Edgar
Gross	Dominic	Machina	Richard	DeAmicis	Tony	Siegler	Paul
Gross	Christopher	Schrandt	Todd	Jackson	Jason	Lecker	Jeremy
Gross	Dalton			Becker	Michael		

## ABOUT CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Christ Alone Lutheran Church is a new Christian congregation, a mission plant of the third largest Lutheran church body in America. Christ Alone congregation held its first service on January 10, 2010. More recently, Christ Alone purchased 11 acres of land on Main St. in Keller. By God's grace, Christ Alone Lutheran remains focused on our mission of reaching out with the good news of the Savior Jesus Christ who died on the cross to pay for all sins and rose again to give eternal life.

Christ Alone Lutheran Church worships the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We accept the Bible as God's inspired and errorless word. It is the only source of truth for life and for eternity.

Christ Alone is dedicated to preaching the truth, that God has prepared a way to save sinners from eternal damnation by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. By Jesus' perfect life and innocent death, the sins of all people have been paid for in full. Jesus' resurrection is proof of this! Whoever believes (trusts) in Jesus has the forgiveness of sins, possesses eternal life now, and has a certain future with Jesus in heaven. Believers in Jesus have been given the new life of faith by which they offer their lives in service to the Lord and all people.

The mission of Christ Alone is to proclaim this eternal gospel (the good news), *"that God was reconciling the world to himself **in Christ**, not counting men's sins against them"* (2 Corinthians 5:19). It is this gospel that gives our church its name: Christ Alone Lutheran Church—*He did it all!*

### OFFICE LOCATION

9500 Ray White Rd., Suite 200  
Fort Worth, TX 76244

### WORSHIP LOCATION

Kay Granger Elementary School  
12771 Saratoga Springs Circle  
Fort Worth, TX 76244

