



Christ Community Lutheran
Creating a Community for Christ



Saint Michael Lutheran
Celebrate, Serve, and Grow in Faith



Two Rivers Parish



GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to Two Rivers Parish, a partnership of Christ Community Lutheran and St. Michael Lutheran! It is a joy to worship with you on this day.

We believe God invites you to the table. Holy Communion is for all the baptized, regardless of age. If walking is difficult for you, we will bring the Lord's Supper to your seat. If you are not communing, we still invite you to come up for a blessing.

We believe worship should be accessible for all. Standing and kneeling happen throughout the worship service, which can be difficult for some. Rest assured that you are still worshipping fully with the community when you sit through these parts.

We believe children belong in worship. Children's worship kits and instructions are available in the hallway so kids can take part in worship. If a child becomes restless, it's okay, because that's what kids do. If you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a cooldown, we encourage them to return to worship as soon as they are ready.

We believe God calls us to pray as a community. Prayer requests may be made during the week by calling or emailing the church office. On Sundays, please write your prayer requests in the Prayer Request Book near the worship space entrance.

We believe God calls us to be welcoming to all. Being in a new place can be nerve-racking to say the least. If you are unsure where something is or how something goes, please ask. We want you to feel welcome. Restroom facilities are located just down the hallway.

Bulletin Notes

The worship service is printed fully in this bulletin, so there is no need to flip back and forth to a hymnal. The pastor will also give instructions during the service.

Abbreviations

P: Pastor

A: Assisting Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregational Response

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Advent Midweek Worship

God's word, proclaimed and reflected upon, and the prayer it calls forth from those gathered, are the heart of this service. The Holy Spirit, who knows our needs, prays with and through us, and when we have no words, for us. Silence makes room to breathe deeply, time to still the heart and quiet restless thoughts, and, a place to listen and rest in the presence of God.

✠ GATHERING ✠

GATHERING LITANY

P: We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.

P: We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.

P: We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth. We are waiting for the One

C: who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.

P: We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Incarnate God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

ELW 257



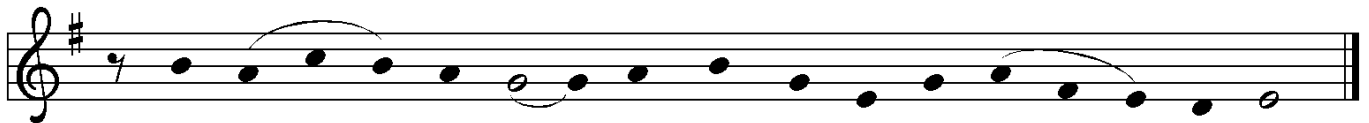
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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-joice! Re-joice!
 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.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

THANKSGIVING FOR DARKNESS AND LIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

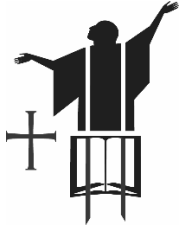
C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day and night, and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom. Lead us in the darkness and the light by the presence of Christ, your Word. May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness, like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds, or the womb that cradles new hope. May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠**READING- PSALM 25:1-10**

From the beginning, darkness and light have been part of God's universe. When God creates the light, the darkness is not extinguished or cursed, but complemented. Light and darkness each have a purpose in God's salvation history. Day and night together are declared "good."

P: A reading from Psalms.

- ¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- ² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴ Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸ You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
- ¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SILENCE**REFLECTION**

A medieval Christian practice called Florilegia (in Latin it means "gathering flowers") is the act of gathering favorite words and phrases from a text like gathering flowers into a bouquet. In the seventh century, a monk in France named Defensor called his gathering of favorite words and phrases The Book of Sparklets. In this season we will collect sparklets! As you listen, you may underline or circle words, phrases, or whole verses that "sparkle" to you, or sketch a picture of an image you hear in the text. When the reading ends, you'll have a few moments for quiet reflection to write one of your sparklets down to share.

REFLECTION HYMN

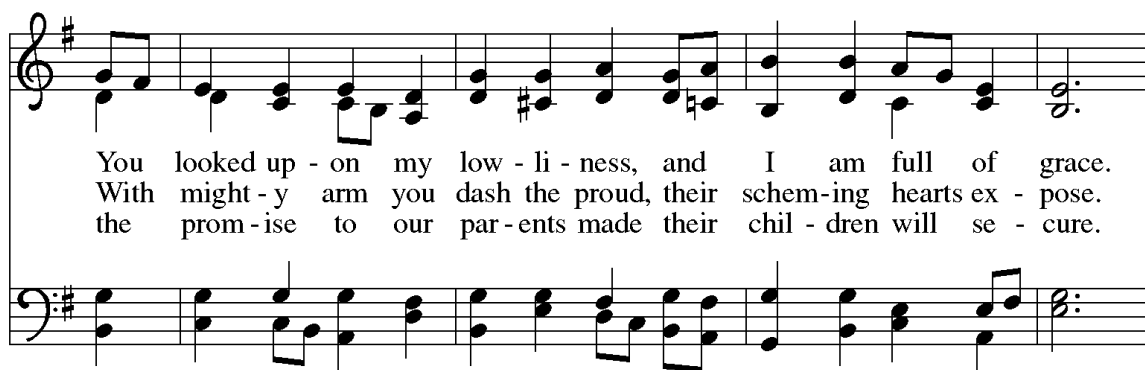
MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

ELW 251

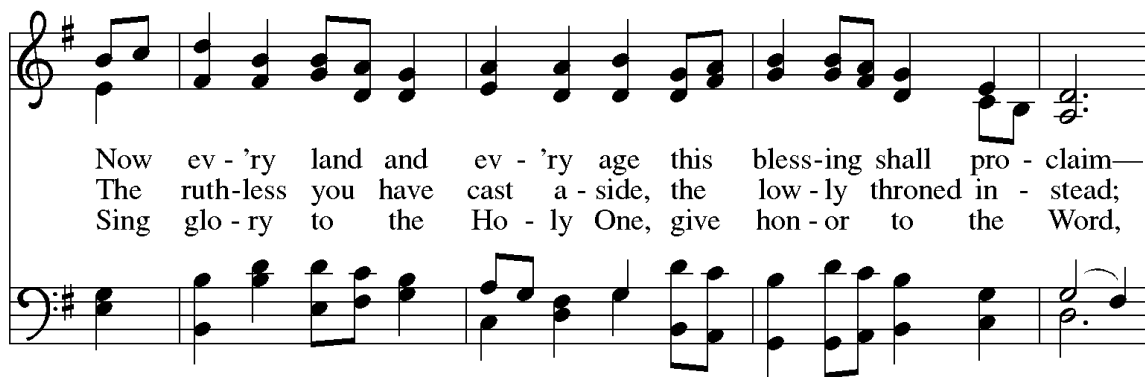
Please stand as you are able.



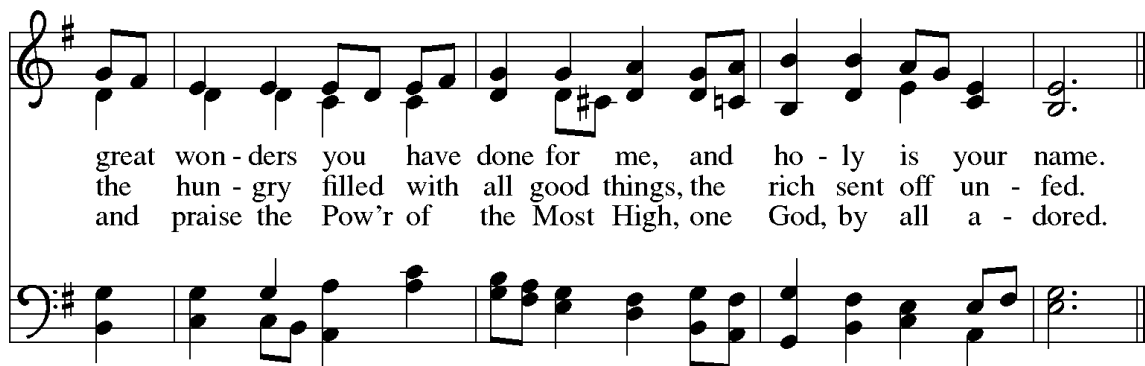
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please kneel or stand as you are able for the prayers.

P: God for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, your whole creation, and the coming of the kingdom.

P: We pray for those who are lonely, fearful, or struggling to know their worth, that they would receive comfort . . . (*pause*). In your great mercy,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

P: We pray for those who do not have enough, that they would receive what they need, and for those who have too much, that they would find the joy of sharing what they have . . . (*pause*). In your great mercy,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

P: We pray for those who face illness, pain, grief, or death, that they would be held in love throughout their struggles . . . (*pause*). In your great mercy,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

P: We pray for creation, that your human children would treat it with reverence, gratitude, and care and receive its life-giving gifts with grace . . . (*pause*). In your great mercy,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

P: We pray that all your people, made in your image, will be stirred to embody your presence as we prepare for the transforming embodiment of your love in the birth of Jesus . . . (*pause*). In your great mercy,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

P: We offer you these prayers in the name of the one who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P: May God give you strength and courage
to keep watch for the One who is coming.
May God give us to one another
so we remember we are not alone.
May God give us to the world
to prepare the way for the coming kingdom.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

ELW 265



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."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

C: Thanks be to God!**POSTLUDE**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

5PM & 7PM

DEC. 4

DEC. 11

DEC. 18

CHRISTMAS EVE

5PM & 7PM

DEC. 24