

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26, 2025
Christ Lutheran Church – Cottonwood, Minnesota**

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community,
and we look forward to seeing you again!**



God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

(from Sundays and Seasons 2024)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,
All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH

Psalm 19

P: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

P: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

All: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

P: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

All: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

P: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Images from Sundays and Seasons

GATHERING HYMN

“All Are Welcome”

ELW# 641

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

All: Amen.

P: Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty and loving God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

P: Hear the voice of Jesus: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.” In the name of † Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW# 886

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God,

All: you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do

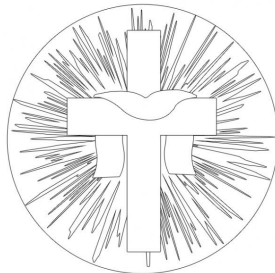
not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**“Lord, Be Glorified”****ELW# 744**

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

Used with permission One License #A-722486

GOSPEL READING**Luke 4:14-21****P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord**All: Praise to you, O Christ***Please be seated.*

MESSAGE

Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW# 843

Please rise in body or spirit.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

All: 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.

SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors.

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

We respond in gratitude for God’s never-failing love and mercy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

GATHERING OF OFFERING

We respond in gratitude for God’s never-failing love and mercy.

Your offering can be received in the offering plate, by doing a one time or recurring gift via the website or by snapping on QR Code to the right.



Thank you for your generosity.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Please be seated.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God, who rejoices over you and calls you by name, † blesses your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

ELW# 239

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace to serve and to love God and neighbor.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Liturgy pieces from Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Sundays and Seasons © Augsburg Fortress.
Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE!

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church will be **held NEXT Sunday, February 2, 2025**, following our 9:30 a.m. worship service (backup date will be February 9).

The Nominating Committee ask you to pray for their tasks and to prayerfully consider this open position:

*** Council Secretary ***

This Week's Calendar

Today, Sunday, January 26: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

- 9:00 am Preschool Sunday School
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Deacons Meeting—Youth Room, Lower Level

Wednesday, January 29:

- 6:00 pm Mission Possible
- Mentor Week** for Confirmation—No Class

Thursday, January 30:

- 2:00 pm Fieldcrest Communion Service
- 2:45 pm West Prairie Communion Service

Sunday, February 2: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

- 9:00 am Preschool Sunday School
- 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 am Annual Meeting following Worship
- 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting-Lakeside Room

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, January 26, 2025 —

Ushers: Shawn Myers, Josh Anderson, Greg Bossuyt, Scott Hanson, Greg Lund, Gary Morken, Tracy Sterner

Musician: Marian Kalass

Acolyte: Benen Keleher

Assisting Minister: Susanne Lee

PA: Ryan Fromm and Larry Isaackson

Video: Bev Isaackson and Jon Myrvik

Altar Care: Michelle Moseng and Heather Velde

Counters: Parry Bossuyt and Deb Louwagie

Clothed With Love: Victoria Praus

Offering Envelopes Available TODAY!



As you leave worship today, please pick up your 2025 box of Offering Envelopes. If you exclusively choose to give online, please contact the church office to let us know that you will not need a box for your household.



Did you know that your church offers communion by request during the week too? This is great for those times you travel, but also for those who work on the weekends. We are more than happy to offer this on a need basis. Please call the church office to schedule with the pastor.

- Who We Are -

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission | Identity

The people of Christ Lutheran Church are daily

✠ **called** into God's new creation,

✠ **empowered** by the Spirit, and

✠ **sent** to show the Good News of Jesus Christ
bringing welcome, forgiveness, healing, renewal

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Jill Boehne, Morgan Dale, Linda Magnuson,
Norman Myers, Bobby Olson, Ione Olson,

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives. Areas at war: Ukraine and Israel.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson,
Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson,
Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation:

Mitch and Mandy McKay
Dillion and Abby McNally
Trent, Kelsey, Everett, and Sylvia Merkins

Grieving Families:

The family of Darleen Cole

Seminarian:

Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions:

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin’s Nest Children’s Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti
Secondary School in Tanzania, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229
Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100
www.christcottonwood.org

Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

Pastor Janel Kuester—cell 651 726 4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com
Office Administrator, Marian Kalass—christlutheran@christcotton.com
Accounting Assistant, Angie Thostenson—angie03465@gmail.com
Custodians, Jon & Jeannette Myrvik
jjmyrvik@icloud.com jonmyrvik@charter.net