

## **Christ United**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**



## **Welcome!**

**(Stand)**

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

**C:** And also with you.

**Advent Song: Red Hymnal #240**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**A:** Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

**C:** let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

**Opening Song: Red Hymnal #257 (verses 5-8)**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**A:** Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world.

**C:** Amen

**A:** **First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16(Sit)

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**A:** **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**A:** **The Second Bible Reading:** Romans 1:1-7

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**P:** **Holy Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25 (Stand)

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 1st chapter

**C:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The Gospel lesson is read

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Kids Time and the Sermon (Sit)**

## Song of the Day: Red Hymnal #251 (Stand)

### Apostles' Creed (Stand)

**C:** 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 again 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.

### The Prayers

- P:** Siblings, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.
- A:** In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- A:** The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- A:** You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- A:** When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- A:** Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- A:** We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**
- Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.**
- P:** God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation. **C: Amen.**

### The Peace is shared at this time

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

**C:** And also with you.

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

## Offering -

December Noisy Offerings: Help for the houseless (**Stand**)

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Holy, Holy, Holy - (see song sheet)

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

(Sit) The Bread is broken

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** **God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen**

## **The Blessing**

**P:** May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **C: Amen.**

**Closing Song: Red Hymnal #239 (Stand)**

## **Announcements**

### **Faith Word for the Week:**

**Last week's words: Light in the darkness**

## **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**A:** And Next Week

**C:** **Bring a Friend!**

**P:** Presiding Minister

**A:** Assisting Minister

**C:** Congregation