



Blue Christmas
Christ Lutheran Church
December 21, 2023
6:00 pm

Blue Christmas



Prelude

Welcome

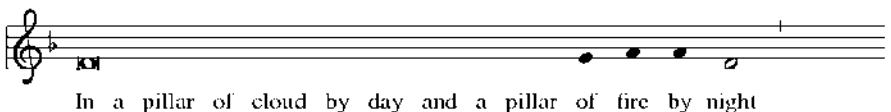
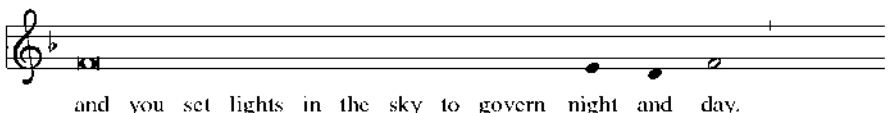
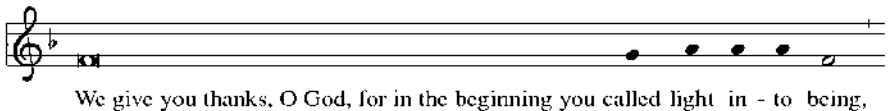
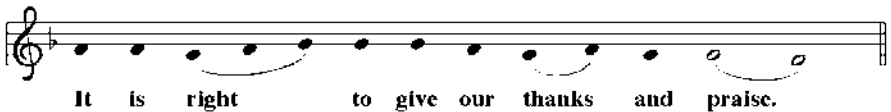
Greeting

P. The light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the warmth of God, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

Gathering Song *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ELW 254

Thanksgiving for Light



you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be

a lamp to our feet and a light to our path: for you are mer-ci - ful,

and you love your whole cre-a-tion, and with all your crea-tures we give you glory,

through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then¹ shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I¹ be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to de-¹vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum-¹ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart¹ will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will¹ not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one¹ thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God¹ in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will¹ give me shelter,



hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up-¹ on a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies¹ who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music¹ to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD,¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and¹ answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message—¹ “Seek my face.”

Your face, O LORD,¹ I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of¹ my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my mother¹ forsake me,
the LORD will¹ take me in.

¹¹Teach me your¹ way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of¹ my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will¹ of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses¹ breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness¹ of the LORD
in the land¹ of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD¹ and be strong.
Take heart and wait¹ for the LORD!

Prayer

P. Creator of the stars of night, bless the long hours of this night with the warmth of your presence. Come to all who suffer in any way. Grant rest to the weary, freedom to those who are burdened, and bright hope to those who despair. Strengthen us as we await your coming once again, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.





First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

Song *Comfort, comfort now my people*

ELW 256

Second Reading

Revelation 22:1-5

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Song

Of the Father's love begotten

ELW 295

Gospel

John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

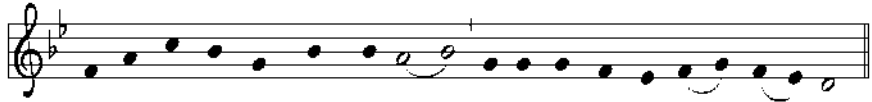
Reflection



Gospel Canticle



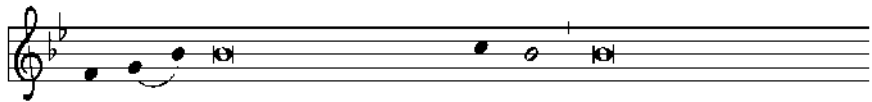
Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ and a-sleep we may rest in peace.



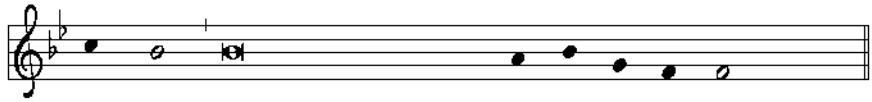
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled.



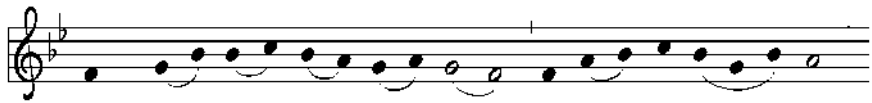
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared



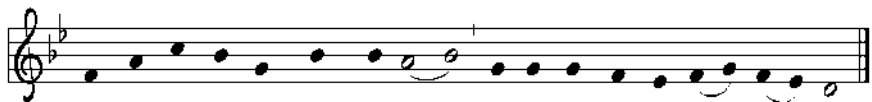
in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to reveal you to the



na - tions and the glory of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

Prayer

Peace

P. The peace of Christ be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Please share peace with one another in the name of the Lord.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P. Let us pray,

C. **Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Blessing

P. May God bless you and keep you.
May God's holy darkness enfold you and grant you rest.
May God nourish a seed of hope among us.

C. **Amen.**

Song

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

Dismissal

A Walking with Christ, go in peace to love and serve our church and neighbors.

C. **Thanks be to God.**



What is Blue Christmas?

We might wonder what Blue Christmas is. Blue Christmas is a Western Christian tradition that happens on the longest darkness of the year, December 21st, also called the Winter Solstice. This is a contemplative service, offered especially for those hurting during this holiday season; those who lost their loved ones, including those who are suffering from illness, addiction, violence, loneliness, financial hardship, conflict, etc.

We gather in the midst of suffering to remember that God indeed arrives by way of deep darkness. We want to tell the world that God, the maker of the cosmos, chose to lovingly draw near to our broken world by way of a human birth on the longest night of the year. God indeed is near. We are not alone and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

This is the 2nd time we are having Blue Christmas in our church. We will be taking our time to remember those who are going through difficult situations, those who have lost their loved ones or those who are suffering in body, mind and spirit. We do this so that the Light of Christ might shine and bring hope and healing.



CONTINUED PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERY OR ON-GOING TREATMENT

Rod Hester, 2015 Roberts Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071
Anne Hernandez, 10116 Cedar Crest Court, 40291
Beverly Kelly, 7603 Endecott Place, Prospect, 40059
Shari Bessette, 1647 Greenland Park Circle, Shelbyville, 40065
Ryan Bessette, 1647 Greenland Park Circle, Shelbyville, 40065
Doug Kull, 6520 Keeling Pl. Rd., 40291
Kathy Bremner, 8117 Watterson Trail, Louisville, 40299
Immanuel Korgar, 8310 Autumnwood Way, 40291
Ed Greaves, 12523 Taylorsville Rd Apt 1011, 40299
Curt Sigdestad, 17110 Farrier Dr, 40245
Earl Arnett, 9101 Lantern Lite Pkwy, 40220
Charlie Werder, 9699 Kings Grant Dr, Murrell's Inlet, SC 29576

NURSING HOMES AND HOMEBOUND

Earl Breitenstein, 4014 Mulberry Row Way, 40299
Carol Breitenstein, 4014 Mulberry Row Way, 40299
Danna Hesse, Forest Hills Commons, 9107 Taylorsville Rd. Apt 133, 40299
Florence Bright, 2619 Lindsay Ave., 40206
Wilma Brown, 10625 Wimberley Hills Blvd., 40241
Doris Bentley, Morning Pointe, 4711 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy, 40299
Martha Classon, Anthology of Louisville, 1105 Dorsey Ln., Rm 301, 40223
Audrey Albin, 903 Blankenbaker Parkway, Apt 123, 40243
Becky Zibart, Forest Springs Health Campus, 4120 Wooded Acre Ln. Rm. 301, 40245
Chester Evans, Symphony at Valley Farms, 10201 Valley Farms Blvd, 40272
Mary Lou Vaughn, Nazareth Home, 2000 Newburg Rd. #262 E. Vaughn, 40205
Pete Peters, Forest Springs Health Campus, 4120 Wooded Acre Ln #519, 40245
Mary Lou Miller, 13600 Lagrange Road, Apt. 238, 40245
Norma Kuerzi, 34515 Hurstborne Ln Apt 214, 40299
Betty Payne, 2300 Old Hickory Road, 40299
Betty Graff, 1143 Fisherville Rd, 40022
Annette Bishoff, 8401 Lagrange Rd, Beehive Homes of Lyndon 40222

***Prayer box and request forms are located in the Narthex to be used or feel free to contact Pastor Limbong or the office.**



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE CHURCH IN LIFE & WORK

Dec 21, 2023



Dec 21 6:00pm -Blue Christmas Service

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services 11:00am, 5:00pm, & 9:00pm

Dec 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS (office closed)

Dec 31 New Year's Eve (Lessons / Carols)

Jan 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024** (office closed)

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Prayer Meetings on December 25 nor January 1.

Please remember you still have time to turn in your intent card and time & talents sheet

†Tues Friends will NOT meet again until January 2, 2024

†LIVE STREAM - The 11:00am service is live streamed on Sundays at 11:00 am. You can join us on our Facebook page or YouTube. We need volunteers to live stream our 11:00am service. If you are interested, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

†JAM DONATIONS -(Dec) Any items plus Christmas gifts or gift cards

†ATTENDANCE CARDS - Please make sure you fill out the attendance cards completely each week to help us keep our parish records up to date. Please be sure to put the worship time you attend and each family member's name. **As we are updating the database, please give Date of Birth (DOB) for each family member.**

†PROPERTY- The property committee asks if you have a concern, please fill out a blue form.

†DEVOTIONAL BOOKS /MESSENGER - available to be picked up at church.

†CALENDER UPDATES-Please fill out a green slip and put in the office mailbox to have events, meetings, and etc added to the church calendars. You can also email your request to the church office.



Church Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

8:30AM - 4:30 PM

If you wish to contact Pastor Limbong
please call the church at (502-267-5082)
or his cell phone: (502-553-6025)

His scheduled days off are Friday and Saturday

Except during an emergency

Office Email Address:

Church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com

Visit our church website:

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Or scan the QR code



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