



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude “Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling” by John Leavitt Eric Dickey

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”

ELW 327

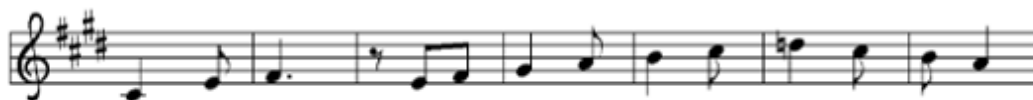
Greeting

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.**

Refrain



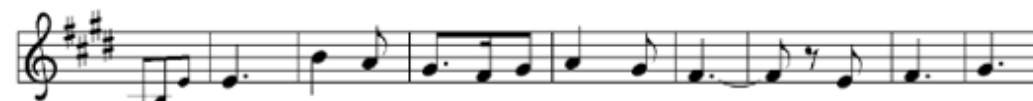
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



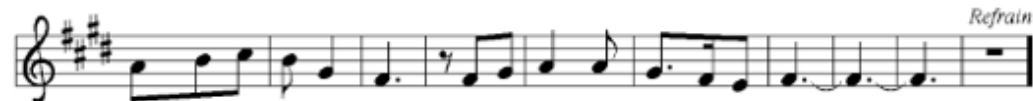
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

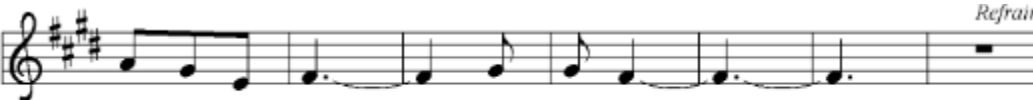


freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain

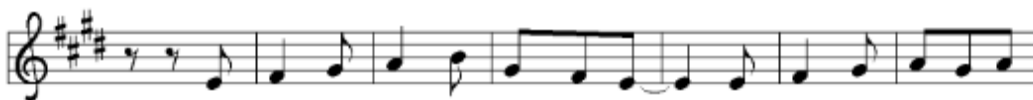


2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Prayer of the Day

P O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

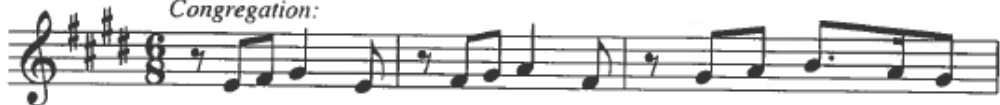
L The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L The Word of the Lord **C** Thanks be to God!


Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according.... **C** Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then

all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

“*Watching for the Sunrise*”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

The Apostles’ Creed

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 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.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath, and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day; **Tom Jennings, Kay Burdo, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Brianna Chevez, Sue Brown, Judy Mock, Deann Schiavone, Val Brown, Joe Perkins Jr., Ron Hetherwick, Shirley & Mike Barns, Frank Okonski** and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM. O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you, especially Carl Mock. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.


Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with

Presider: *Congregation:*




you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider:



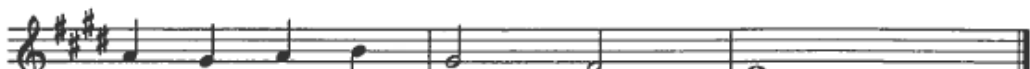
lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:



thanks to the Lord our God. It is

Congregation:



right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 6/8. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The 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.**

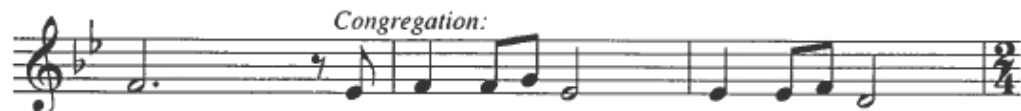
Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Blessed Assurance”
“When Peace Like a River”

ELW 638
ELW 785

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW 439

Dismissal

AM Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

This is the Day the Lord has made! We are pleased to REJOICE AND WELCOME you! May God’s Word and Sacrament bless you! If you are visiting Community of Christ, we want to extend a very warm welcome to you! We would ask our visitors to complete the visitor card in the friendship pad. If there is some way we can serve you, please let us know!

We WELCOME YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

**Altar Flowers are given by Bob & Bonnie
Smigelski in memory of our parents ♥**

Young Adult and Adult Bible Study please join Pastor Steve in the library!

Topics for November:

- Nov. 12 Grace and Gratitude: A Way of Life, Part 2
- Nov. 19 Grace and Gratitude: A Way of Life, Part 3
- Nov. 26 Grace and Gratitude: A Way of Life, Part 4

Monthly Sunday School gatherings for kids of all ages **TODAY!** November from 9:15-9:45 am--join us for songs, stories, and activities in the time between services here at Community of Christ!

Mark Your Calendars! Our congregation will host an *annual meeting* on **Sunday, December 3** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will receive the proposed budget for 2024 and elect four members for the church council. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

Calling All Hands for Advent Artwork

In advance of this year's Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are inviting all willing hands, from children to grown-ups, to help us create a new series of banners that will go up in the sanctuary for the four weeks of Advent and into Christmas. All you need to bring is yourself, preferably dressed in clothes you can do a bit of painting in, and we'll supply the brushes, designs, paints, and all the rest. But we would LOVE your help and hands. Come to the fellowship hall to add your creative touch at one of our TWO sessions for creating these pieces of original Advent artwork: **TODAY, Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2:00 p.m.**, or **Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7:00 p.m.** Hope to see you then!

This Advent, we'll be creating a new resource for both our congregation and the wider community, a compilation of prayers and Scripture readings, and that will include a series of short daily videos where the prayers and scripture passages will be read and shared. We would love YOUR help! If you would be interested in being a reader of a short passage of Scripture to be used in the video version of this Advent prayer-and-reading series, we'll invite you to sign up on the kiosk to claim a day's reading (usually just a few verses) and to sign up for a time to be recorded in the sanctuary. We'll be holding those recording sessions at several different windows of time later in November (Sunday, November 12, and Thursday, Nov. 16--see the sign-up). Reading your part will only take a few minutes, but this will be a great way to add richness and depth to our season of Advent, and it will help us create a great resource to share with our friends, neighbors, and the wider community. See Pastor Steve with any questions and add your voice to this Advent with us!

Grief Share and Surviving the Holidays: Are you grieving a loss or know someone who is? If so, you may benefit from a two-hour seminar on Tuesday, November 14 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. @ Monclova Road Baptist Church, 7819 Monclova Rd, Monclova 43542 building A. They will offer encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the season. For more information, please visit griefshare.org/holidays.

Save the Date: Thanksgiving Service—Sunday, Nov. 19 at Zion UMC
Community of Christ and our neighboring United Methodist congregations invite you to join us for a joint service of Thanksgiving on the evening of Sunday, Nov. 19 at Zion United Methodist Church, Whitehouse (10926 Maumee Street). Our own Pastor Steve will be the guest preacher, and we'll have the chance to gather with friends and neighbors in offering thanks to God together. Look for an announcement soon for more about the start time and the service, but for now, you can save the date and plan to join us!

Outreach For Our College Students/Military-

It's time to submit an updated photo and address for your college student or military youth. Please drop it off at the church office or email Kristen at schuchmannkristen1993@gmail.com. We will be displaying a board so that church members can acquire these addresses and reach out to the students periodically.



Angel Gifts for Salem Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ will have the opportunity to reach out and bless the children at our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church in north Toledo. Salem Lutheran will be providing us with a list of names of their children and their gift requests. We will incorporate these requests into an envelope and have them displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. Here are some important dates for the project:

- *Sunday, November 19, 2023.* The bulletin board in Gathering Place will be decorated with Salem Angel requests.
- Enter your name on the pink or blue Angel slip on board and take the envelope. ***Please do not remove pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board as this is our inventory method.***
- Shop for your Angel and leave your gift under the COC Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- *Sunday, December 17, 2023:* Have your gifts to the church by this date. *No later than 12:00 p.m.*

Thank you for helping to bless these children!
Shelly & Ken Hayes



50th Anniversary Committee Collecting Photos and

More! As our fiftieth-anniversary committee continues to plan events and activities to commemorate the first five decades of Community of Christ's story, we're working on a video to share images, memories, and history, and we would LOVE

to have your help! If you have pictures or even video clips from past church events here with Community of Christ folks that you can let us borrow to include in the video compilation, we'd love you to share them with us. Bring things to the church office and we'll get photos scanned and video files copied and then returned to you. We'll be working on putting this video together in early 2024, so take the next several months to bring in photos to help make this a great part of our big celebration!

Reaching Out, Looking Forward—50th Anniversary Challenge

As joyful and grand as our congregation's fiftieth-anniversary celebration is this year, leading up to the May 2024 commemoration of Community of Christ's first Sunday worship service, it's not just about looking backward. After all, being God's people isn't just about what God has done in the past, but where God's moving in the present, and how God is leading us into the future. So, we're asking for the congregation to take on a challenge of generosity and financial support to raise \$50,000 during this time, with \$25,000 to be directed to mission needs beyond our doors through agencies like Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and the other \$25,000 to be paid toward our building loan. Think of it as a way of saying "Thank you" for all that God has done among us in the past fifty years, by helping neighbors in need in times of crisis and disaster around the world, and also investing in what God will do for the next generation of disciples here at Community of Christ who will make Jesus known for the next fifty years and beyond! Stay tuned for more news and opportunities to give or support the 50th Anniversary Challenge!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:



Next Meeting Date
November 14 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
November 16 @ 7:00 p.m..



2023 Congregational Meeting!
Sunday, December 3rd
following the 10:00 a.m. service.
Please plan to attend!



LWR Quilt Ministry
Next Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Join us on Facebook Live at
10:00 a.m.**

or

in person!

Worship & Sacrament

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

AA Meeting

Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting

First Monday of every month

6:30 p.m.

Worship Services

Available on the net

at www.commofchrist.org

