**Nativity of Our Lord I**

**December 24, 2022**

**5:00 pm**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

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**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



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**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG** *Joy to the World #267*

**\*GREETING**

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

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. *A brief silence***.** **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. men.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**SONG** *O Little Town of Bethlehem #279*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**SONG** *Away in a Manger #277*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**SONG** *The First Noel #300*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**SONG** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

 …God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE SONG** *What Child is This #296*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together…**God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God...

…For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

\***LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace. **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**COMMUNION SONG** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #282*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together…**Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

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**\*BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you,☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts ,now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*After the Blessing, we will sing Silent Night as the Sanctuary lights are dimmed. At that time, please light your candles. We will sing all verses by candlelight to welcome the Newborn Savior! Once the song ends, ushers will slowly raise the lights and the dismissal is said.**

**\*SENDING SONG** *Silent Night #281*



**\*Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**  Rev. Laurie Arroyo, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, officemanager@christlutheranlb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**Percussionist** Nathan Latiolait

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this evening!**

**CHILDCARE**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*Christ Is Alive!*

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

*Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With his love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines, word, song and prayer to share God’s incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.*

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