

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
CHRISMON SERVICE

November 28th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Stir up, we implore you, your power, O Lord, and come that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Organist: Susanne Anderson

Readers: 9 a.m. — Don Fretz 11 a.m. – Howard Bogusat

Children’s Message: “Preparing for Jesus” https://youtu.be/S3Wk_VAEUJE

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 11 Cor. 1: 15-22 Wed.: 11 Sam. 7: 4-9, 11-14a, 16 Friday: Heb. 10: 19-25
Tuesday: Mic. 2: 1-2, 9, 12-13 Thurs: Isa. 64: 1-3 Saturday: Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

During the Chrismon Service, the following members will come forward and place the Chrismon Ornaments on the Christmas Tree.

	9 a.m.	11 a.m.
1. “The Manger”	John Makey Jr.	Lorraine Hagar
2. “The Angel”	Janice Muller	Jenna Cosco
3. “The Epiphany Star”	Judy Mason	Lorraine Kaija
4. “The Sacrificial Lamb”	Nathan Kuhl	Carole Pink
5. “The Chalice”	Elly Reck	Pastor Kuenzel
6. “The Latin Cross”	Fran Porteous	Thomas Hagar
7. “The Butterfly”	Judy Slingerland	Gloria Meyer
8. “The Dove and Shell”	MacKenzie Harmer	Kate Nagy
9. “The Shepherd Staff”	Kathy Kuhl	Laura Cosco
10. “The Fish”	Marcus Gall	Kathy DeKouchay
11. “The Cross and the Orb”	Wendy Shook	Naomi Hohnberg
12. “The Circle with IHS”	Samantha Harmer	Lauren Nagy
13. “The Crown”	Stephanie Gall	Paul Wachs

God bless us in this special service today!

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
 - A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
 - Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.
- Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

EDUCATION HOUR: Sundays 10:10 AM — 10:45 AM

- **Adult Bible Study** will be held weekly in the basement [SOUL area]
 - November 28: led by Louise Gondosch;
 - 4 week unit on Old Testament Prophet Malachi
- **Sunday School** – Will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month in basement classrooms
- **Youth Catechism** –
 - November 28: led by Pastor Todd

All other adult classes Pastor Todd will teach.

- Education hour **will not meet** in December, but will resume in:
 - Sunday school and Bible Study - late January 2022
 - Youth Catechism - February and March 2022.

BAZAAR CRAFT TABLE WALK: Crafts, for purchase, will be on display November 28th after each service. We hope you will come downstairs and walk through.

LWML-C/Mary Martha: **LWML-C/Mary Martha:** We are so excited to invite you to join us at our LWML-C/Mary Martha meetings which will be held **in person!** *We will be still wearing masks and social distancing at our meetings. (You are welcome to bring your own beverage.)*

- Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m. Advent Tea *(note date change)*

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021 WORSHIP



- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
Advent 1 --9 & 11 AM – Chrismon Service & Chrismon Ornament Decorations
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
Advent 2: 9 AM Creative Communion
11 AM Traditional Communion
[Introducing Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Four]
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
Advent 3: 9 am - Morning Praise
11 am - LSB setting 4 without Communion
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 9 & 11 AM: – Lessons & Carols Service
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE –
7 PM: Christmas Carol Candlelight Service
10 PM: Christmas Carol Candlelight Service
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY–
10 AM: Christmas Carol Communion Worship
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 – BOXING DAY –
10 AM: Christmas Carol Communion Worship
(no Education Hour this morning)
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2022 –
10 AM: Epiphany Blended Worship
(no Education Hour this morning)

Please feel WELCOME to join us for any / or all of these Special Advent and Christmas Services!!

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022** in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme for the gathering is **"IN NOT OF"** from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn

Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68qXVYofMYY> .

Last Sunday Attendance: Nov. 21, 2021 **Attn: 9 a.m. – 54; 11 a.m. — 57; Total: 111**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	2,875.00	172,847.90	729,252.58)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	153.00	15,598.50	(2,478.42)
Property Improvement:			192.00	5,502.50	

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Don & Lois Fretz on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN: During this season of Advent, to help families prepare for 'Jesus Birth', children are encouraged to pick up an "Advent Paper Chain" as a countdown to Christmas and an "Activity Book" from the narthex. Books are for children 3-6 years or 7-9 years.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3,
Attn: Darryl Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

LATEST AND LAST UPDATED BAZAAR NOTES



TODAY — One more chance if you missed last week, to come downstairs after the Service (9 & 11 am) and look at the crafts we have for sale in our "**CRAFT TABLE WALK THROUGH**". There are still some lovely items left (or you might even want to come again because as last week, there will be some more individually packaged baking treats that you can buy for your lunch or supper today) It's in one way and out the other, so come downstairs, via the aisle on the left (Lectern side), down the back stairs into the kitchen end of the basement. Donated Crafts will be on display for purchase, arranged on tables such that you can walk through from the one side to the other, exiting at the opposite side and up the stairs

to the parking lot.

TODAY - LAST CHANCE TO PLACE A BAZAAR ORDER

All orders need to be in this Sunday. Be aware that some choices are no longer available. We are sold out of: cheddar pierogis, cabbage rolls, peach jam and Habanero Gold hot pepper jelly. Some orders were already picked up yesterday (Sat. morning Nov. 27) and the rest will be available next Sat. morning Dec. 4. You will receive an email or phone call with your total cost. You may write a cheque to the Mary Martha Society or pay by cash with exact amount as we will not have money for making change. Thank you for placing an order with us.

The **SILENT AUCTION** runs on Facebook until **Dec. 4** when it will close and the winning bids will be posted. You can still go to the site and place a bid if you haven't already done so. It is an open public group and pictures and descriptions of the items up for bid are posted there. Just put CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SILENT AUCTION in the search bar and you should find it. Thank you also to those who have been bidding so far; to those who made donations of the items for the Auction and to Judy Mason for running it.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

To share the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are, the “Outreach Committee” is planning to distribute, complete Christmas turkey dinner packages. We are asking for confidential referrals from our members. Last year we helped 25 families by making up 25 baskets.

We need your help by:

- Providing us with confidential referrals which can be placed into a box located in our church narthex
- Donating the funds required for the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items which will be purchased just before the packages are distributed
- Letting the Outreach Committee,
Judy Mason—905-641-7546
Howard Bogusat—905-468-3566
know if you would be willing to help package baskets

- Praying that this project is a success and that those who receive these gifts are touched by the joy and wonder of our Saviour’s birth and by His love for each one of us.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE COLLECTING “MONETARY DONATIONS” ONLY FOR THIS PROJECT)

THANK YOU!

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT CHRISMON SERVICE

November 28, 2021 + 9 & 11 AM services

Opening Hymn:

“O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

RESPONSIVE VERSES & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

[Sundays in Advent \(liturgybytlw.com\)](http://Sundays in Advent (liturgybytlw.com))

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation:

Come and teach us the way of thoughtful thinking.

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

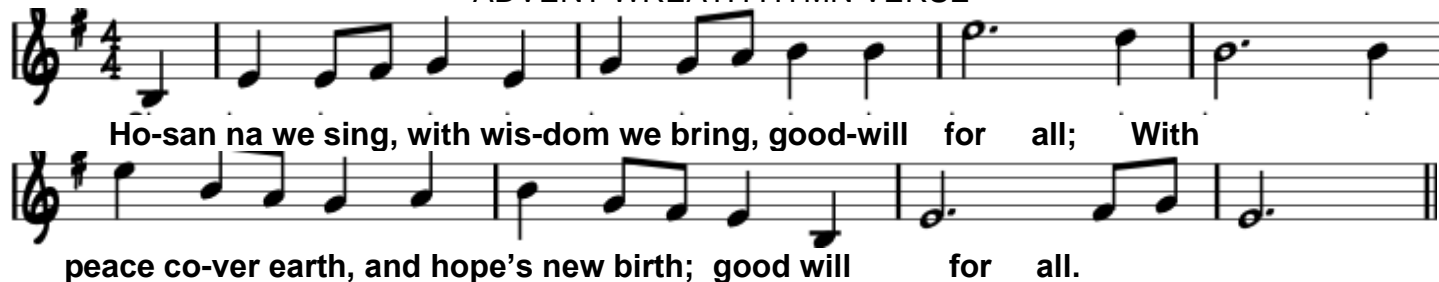
Come with an outstretched arm and save us.

[The 1st Advent candle is lighted]

We pray: **We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

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ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE



Ho-san na we sing, with wis-dom we bring, good-will for all; With
peace co-ver earth, and hope's new birth; good will for all.

Words: Unknown, 1967; Music: SHALOM, CHAVERIM Jewish melody, 1944

INTRODUCTION:

The word "Chrismon" is a trademark, a combination of the first letters of "Christ" and "monogram". Chrismons were first made by Mrs. Harry Spencer of Danville, Virginia in 1957. Chrismons have great education value in the church, especially for the young. As we learn about what each chrismon means they move us to worship the Lord, whom the shymbolds represent. There are many different chrismons on our Chrismon tree. In our worship service today we will learn about 12 different kinds of chrismons.

Scripture 1: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people in walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdened them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

NATIVITY SYMBOLS -- remind us that God very often starts at the bottom. His first point of contact with humanity is generally the insignificant and powerless: the poor, the uneducated, the children. That should give pause to those who are totally bent on getting wealth, power and fame, shouldn't it? At the manger, the rich and powerful came to humble themselves before a poor, helpless unknown child. God, as He so often does, messes with our minds and turns our world of ideas upside down.

MANGER

The manger reminds us of Jesus' humble beginning. Jesus was born during a Roman census and everyone had to go to their own hometown to register. Joseph' hometown was Bethlehem. Jesus' mother Mary gave birth in Bethlehem and placed Jesus in a manger because there was no room available in the inn.

Scripture 2: *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CHOIR:

Jesus, My Saviour, Is Born In A Manger

Jesus, my Saviour, born in a manger for there was no room at the inn,

You are so lowly, perfect and holy, given to save us from sin.

Jesus, my Saviour, born in a manger for there was no room at the inn,

Beautiful Jesus, born to redeem us, how lovely You are, Lord, to me!

Holy Redeemer, miracle healer, You are my Lord and my King!

Beautiful Jesus, born to redeem us, how lovely You are, Lord, to me!

Angels are winging and they are singing on high, "Glory be to the King!"

Heavenly Child, pure, undefiled, born on that calm Christmas night.

Angels are winging and they are singing on high,

"Glory be to the King!"

Glory be to the King!

Jesus My Saviour, Born in a Manger Dana Mengel copyright 2008 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org
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ANGEL

Angels are servants of God who carry out His will. Angels often deliver messages from God to God's people. The Christmas angel reminds us of the angel Gabriel who told Zechariah and Elizabeth that they would be the parents of John the Baptist, and who also announced to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus the Saviour. A choir of angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds around Bethlehem.

Scripture 3: *Luke 2:8-14*

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard On High

LSB 368 VS 1 & 3

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in
excelsis Deo.</p> | <p>3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in
excelsis Deo.</p> |
|--|--|

EPIPHANY STAR

The 5-pointed epiphany star is sometimes called the Christmas star. It reminds us of the star that God used to guide the wise men from the east to come to Jerusalem and look for Jesus whom they called the king of the Jews. The star went ahead of the wise men until it stopped over the place where the baby Jesus was in Bethlehem.

Scripture 4: *Matthew 2:1-2; Revelation 22:16b*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

And Jesus says, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.

Hymn:

We Three Kings

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.</p> | <p>Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light</p> |
|--|--|

PASSION SYMBOLS

Nobody in their right mind likes suffering. Yet we all have to face it in this life. That's the result of the first sin in the Garden of Eden and all the sins that have followed it. Life is filled with sickness, turbulence, violence and death. Why did Jesus go the hard way, choosing the troublesome route, fighting against all that harms us only to drink from the bitter cup of suffering? As we ponder this, we will realize that we not only need help when times seem favourable, but even more so when we struggle through the same forms of trial and hurt. Jesus is the Suffering Servant, the Ransom Offering, the great physician Who can heal us from the toxic effects of sin and darkness.

THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB

When God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt He punished the Egyptians. The last and greatest plague God sent on Egypt was the plague on the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. God did this to prove to Pharaoh who was testing Him that He alone was God. God commanded His people to sacrifice a Passover Lamb and to paint its blood on their door frames. In that way the destroying angel would see the blood of the Passover Lamb and pass over the houses of the Israelites and spare them. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. By faith in Jesus' death for us, God spares us His punishment. For Jesus Himself bore our punishment for our sins on the cross.

Scripture 5: *Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:29*

Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all....And the next day John [the baptizer] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Hymn:

Lamb of God [Your Only Son]

© Twila Paris

**Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God.**

Chorus:

***Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God***

**Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God**

**(Chorus)
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God**

**I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God**

**(Chorus)
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.**

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/4230>

CHALICE

The chalice or common cup reveals why Jesus was born. Jesus was born to fulfill prophesy, pour out His life and die for the sins of the world. At the Last Supper Jesus began with the Passover Meal and shared the New Passover for His Holy Supper. Jesus shared the wine in the cup with His disciples and said that it is His blood for them and for all to drink for the forgiveness of their sins.

Scripture 6: *Matthew 26:26-28*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

LATIN CROSS

The cross is the most recognized and ancient of all Christian symbols. It reminds us of Good Friday. The cross of two wooden beams the Romans used to crucify Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus died on the cross to bring salvation, forgiveness and peace to the entire world. By His suffering we are healed and made right with God.

Scripture 7: *John 19:16-18*

Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgatha). Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others --- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Hymn

"Old Rugged Cross"

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/618>

**On a hill, far away, stood an old, rugged cross,
the emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain --
So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

**In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.
So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross, and exchange it some day for a crown**

BUTTERFLY

Jesus died on the cross, laid in a borrowed tomb and rose to new life on the third day. Jesus rose from the dead with a glorious resurrected body. The caterpillar wonderfully represents this process of a coldness of death and then a warm, transformational life. The caterpillar begins by spending time in its tomb-like cocoon as if dead, only to emerge from the cocoon a glorious butterfly.

Scripture 8: *Luke 24:36-44*

While the disciples were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

DOVE AND SHELL

The dove and shell represent Holy Baptism. The dove represents the Holy Spirit who appeared at Jesus' baptism and descends upon all people when they are baptized. Shells appear near the water, the essential element needed for Holy Baptism.

Scripture 9: *Matthew 28:19-20*

Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to keep everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

CHOIR: – We Were Baptized In Christ Jesus

We were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized in his death;
That as Christ was raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
We will all be reunited, for He lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
In the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
In the losing and the winning we hold fast.

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
Glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
As it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again
In a song that has no ending.
Amen.

VICTORY SYMBOLS

We all like to win. We all like to think of ourselves as winners. The victory symbols remind us that we are – all of us. Christ gained the victory over sin, death and the devil; those things have no power over us anymore. Jesus gained the win and gives that triumph to us. With faith in our Lord, we are invincible; there is no way to lose in this world, or more importantly, in the next.

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The staff is spoken of many times in the Old Testament. A shepherd used their staff to guide the sheep and to pick them up by the crook [*curved portion*] if needed. But the staff could also be used as a weapon by the shepherd to protect the sheep against wolves or other predators. Truly this is an ancient and comforting image.

PSALM 23 - spoken together

KJV

**The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Scripture 10: John 10:11-15

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ***"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—*** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

FISH

Along with the cross and staff, the fish is one of the oldest symbols of the Church. The word for fish in Greek is spelled Iota, Chi, Theta, Upsilon, Sigma and can be used as an acrostic. When using each of these five letters as the first letter of a word, they can form the sentence: Jesus Christ, Son, of God, Saviour. Early Christians under persecution used the sign of the fish to recognize one another.

Scripture 11: Matthew 4:18-20

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him

Hymn: *They Cast Their Nets In Galilee* [Tune: LSB 389 "Let Altogether Praise Our God"]

**They cast their nets in Galilee
Just off the hills of brown
Such happy simple fisherfolk
Before the Lord came down;
Before the Lord came down.**

**Contented peaceful fishermen
Before they ever knew
The peace of God That fill'd their hearts
Brimful and broke them too;
Brimful and broke them too.**

William Percy, 1924 www.hymnary.org

CROSS AND ORB

In this symbol the circle, or orb represents the world, and the cross represents the Kingdom of God. By placing the cross on top of the orb, this symbol shows the present and future reality of life on earth: through the Spirit and Jesus Christ the Church witnesses to the world, grows in faith, in works of love, and creates a way to receive peace. Even if it doesn't always look like it, Christ has overcome the world.

Scripture 12: John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. ----This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

CIRCLE WITH IHS

In Greek the letters IHS (iota, theta, sigma) can be used as another acrostic. These three letters, can be explained as the first letters of Greek words spelling: Jesus, Christ, Saviour. Jesus Christ is the victorious Saviour for all.

Scripture 13: Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 13:8

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. ----Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hymn: *Lord I Lift Your Name On High* © 1989 Rick Founds Maranatha Praise

**Lord I lift your name on High
Lord I love to sing Your praises;
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You've come to save us:
You came from Heaven to earth, to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift Your name on high!**

CROWN

Every young child knows that a crown is meant for a king or queen. Jesus was born the King of the Jews as announced by the wise men, and Jesus died the King of the Jews as announced by Pilate who posted this message on the cross. Jesus is our king too.

Scripture 14: *Revelation 19:11-16*

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in your name. We pray for your church, her mission, the people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of your holy word. We pray for the nations and people of the whole world. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace. Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by natural disaster, terrorism, want or war. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others. Please stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Uplift those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. Come to those from our parish and our community we know in particular need, giving healing in body, mind and soul. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome you with joy when you return in glory. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

BLESSING:

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.
Amen.

CHOIR:

A King Has Come

Creation groaned in darkness 'til the dawning of the day
The Son of God came to a humble stall
For the baby in the manger, that night in Bethlehem
Was surely born to reign as Lord of all.
A King has come, bringing light to every nation.
A King has come! Tell the news to every land.
A King has come! Join your hearts in celebration!
God has sent His Son, the hope of every man.

A light that shone in darkness was the baby born that day
Who came to earth to save us from our sin.
Just to think that God Almighty would leave His heav'nly throne
To build His kingdom in the hearts of men
A King has come, bringing light to every nation.

A King has come! Tell the news to every land.
A King has come! Join your hearts in celebration!
God has sent His Son, the hope of every man.
Hallelujah! He's the light of all creation.
Hallelujah! Let earth receive her King!
Hallelujah! Ev'ry tribe and ev'ry nation join the angels now and sing:
A King has come, bringing light to every nation.
A King has come! Tell the news to every land.
A King has come! Join your hearts in celebration!
God has sent His Son, the hope of ev'ry man.
God has sent His Son, the hope of ev' - ry man.
A King has come!

A King Has Come CCLI Song # 2504733 Keith Wilkerson
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