

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Chrismon Service
November 27th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

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 Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
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Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw

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.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Phil. 2: 12-18 Wednesday: Mark 13: 33-37 Friday: Heb. 10: 32-39
Tuesday: Heb. 12: 12-17 Thursday: Matt. 25: 14-30 Saturday: Heb. 12: 22-29

Musician: 10 a.m. – Louise Gondosch
Reader: 10 a.m. – Don Fretz
Greeter: 10 a.m. – Judy Slingerland

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
Sunday, Dec. 4th: 10 a.m. – Worship with Nativity Display in basement
Sunday, Dec. 11th: 10 a.m. – Worship
Sunday, Dec. 18th: 10 a.m. – Special Lessons & Carols Service
Saturday, Dec. 24th: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.: Christmas Eve Carol Services with Candlelights
Sunday, Dec. 25th: CHRISTMAS DAY - Christmas Carol Holy Communion Service



- 1. "The Manger" [Gloria Meyer](#)
- 2. "The Angel" [Noah Rapp](#)
- 3. "The Epiphany Star" [Elly Reck](#)
- 4. "The Sacrificial Lamb" [Janice Muller](#)
- 5. "The Chalice" [John Gondosch](#)
- 6. "The Latin Cross" [Ava A.](#)
- 7. "The Butterfly" [Kathy Kuhl](#)
- 8. "The Dove and Shell" [Grace Rapp](#)
- 9. "The Shepherd Staff" [Diesel Rapp](#)
- 10. "The Fish" [Naomi Hohnberg](#)
- 11. "The Cross and Orb" [Tracey Cosco](#)
- 12. "The Circle with IHS" [Theresa Mason](#)
- 13. "The Crown" [Matt Cadieux](#)

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:10 - 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. Worship (Chrismon Service)
Monday: 10:00 a.m. Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Choir
Tuesday: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Precious Moments
Thursday: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. SOUL
Saturday: 6:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing
Next Sunday: Christmas Nativity Sets will be displayed

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held 9:00 a.m. before service the **first 2 Sundays of each month**. Our focus this year is on *"God's Good Rules, His 10 Commandments"*. Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and time to read their own devotions or join in Christian conversation.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: If YOU or a "mom or caregiver" you know has little ones (even babies), we invite them to join us. We meet at the church on **Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11 a.m.** The coffee and tea are always on (thanks to Judy!) and lots of playing, singing, reading a story, snack and craft. Hope to see you!



Christmas Carol Sing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Bring along your singing voice, family and friends!
Enjoy an evening of carol singing and prepare to celebrate the
birth of our Lord

Fellowship and Refreshments to follow:

Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate + Snacks

Nativity Set Display

Invite your family, friends, neighbours for a fun evening!
Sign-up sheet in the Narthex

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SETS: We ask that members bring in their nativity sets for display on December 4th. We would ask that they be left at the church and clearly marked with your name by Friday, December 2nd.

YOUTH & CONFIRMAND CHRISTMAS PARTY: Friday, December 9th. We will meet at the church for **6:30 p.m.** - get organized & walk over to **Luther Manor for a carol sing**. Then we will come back to church and proceed with our party. Friends are welcome join us!

YOUTH LOCK IN: Monday, January 2, 7:00 p.m. until Tuesday, January 3, 9:00 a.m. is our tentative lock- in date. Be sure to speak with Louise if you are interested. Friends are welcome!

LMWL-C/MARY MARTHA:

This is such an exciting time to welcome back and extend an invitation to everyone for our new Fall/Winter program. Please mark your calendars so that you may be able to join us:

Tuesday, December 20th - 5:30 p.m. Advent/Christmas Dinner

We look forward to seeing familiar faces at our meetings and welcoming new faces! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Lorraine at 905 964 5837!

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3: 14-16

Last Sunday Attendance: November 13th, 2022 Attn: 10 a.m. – 64

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	3,598.00	186,243.42	(64,360.16)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	632.00	13,719.00	(3,973.31)
Property Improvement:			242.00	5,814.00	

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Don & Lois Fretz on the occasion of their 48th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been received in memory of Pastor Frank Silver: to SOUL by Lynn Jerchel & Rhoda Lipischak, Don & Lois Fretz, and to Christ Lutheran Church by Karen & Mark McCumber



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!

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryl Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lcceast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.




Positive Living Niagara needs assistance helping the vulnerable in our community. Bear Paws™ snacks are a welcomed food item given out to clients daily.

"Bear"ing Burdens

Please donate a box or two of Bear Paws™ to help "Bear" another's burdens. A box will be in the narthex area for drop off. Any questions or comments please see Pastor Todd.

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

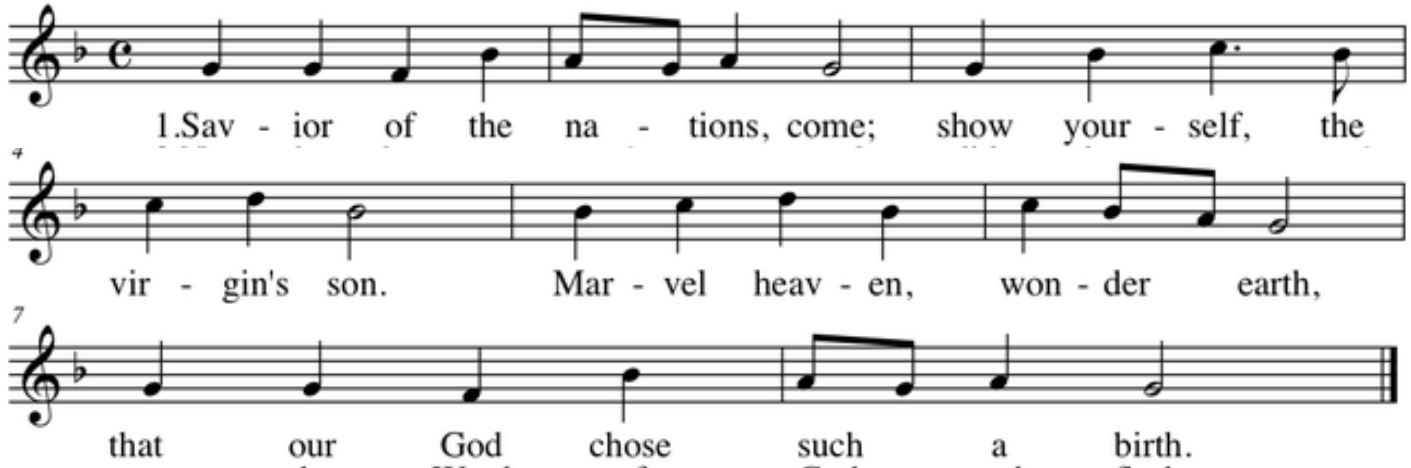
Chrismon Service

November 27, 2022 + 10 AM service

Opening Hymn:

"Saviour Of The Nations"

LSB 331



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show your - self, the
vir - gin's son. Mar - vel hea - ven, won - der earth,
that our God chose such a birth.

4. *Then stepped forth the Lord of all / From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.*

7 *From the manger newborn light / Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.*

+

8. *Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be / Now and through eternity.*

Words: St Ambrose, trans. Martin Luther <https://ctkcambridge.org/song-podcast>

RESPONSIVE VERSES & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: [Sundays in Advent \(liturgybytlw.com\)](https://www.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.

Blessed are you, God of Jacob,

**for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest
and to teach us your way of peace;**

you promise that our night of sin is far gone

and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath,

**wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide
us along your path of peace.**

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen

ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE

**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.**

Medieval Latin hymn public domain

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 defect, you have shattered the yoke that burden 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.

Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard On High

LSB 368 VS 1 & 3

- I. **Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo. Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo. Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

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."

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"A Star Soon Will Shine"

Watch and wait, O people of God;
this is no time for doubt and fear.
Let your faith be steadfast and strong. Soon a sign will appear.
A star will soon shine o'er Bethlehem town.
The prophets have said a child will come down from heaven above
to bring God's love.
Let us prepare for The King.
A star will soon shine alone in the night
The sky will be filled with glorious light,
and a song will be heard through all the world.
Let us prepare for The King.
Watch and wait, O people of hope;
love will come down from heav'n on high.
Trust in Him, be patient and know God will send you a sign.
A star will soon shine to show us the way
The darkness we've known will soon be replaced by the light of God's Son,
The Promised one.
Let us prepare for The King.

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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.

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 7: *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!"

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"He Became A Lamb"

He Became A Lamb
He became a lamb,----- He became a lamb
When the Father needed a sacrifice
He sent His Son and He became a lamb
Scarred, bruised, suffering for sins not His own, -----for sins not His own
Scarred, bruised, Willing to give up His heavenly throne.
God so loved the world -----
God so loved the world-----
That He sent His only begotten Son to pay the price
A sacrifice, A lamb.-----A lamb.

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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 5: *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 6: *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 8: *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."

Hymn:

“Wash, O God, Your Sons & Daughters”

Beach Spring

Wash O God, your sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wat - ers
flow. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as
Christ blest long a --go. Weave them gar - ments bright and
Spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a --
noint them; send Your Spir - it. Ho - ly Dove. and heart's de - light.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! with our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, waterwashed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer; Recreate us, God transform.

Hymns to the Living God 345

WORDS: John Newton, 1799

MUSIC: (BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D): Traditional American melody; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

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 9: *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 10 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 11: *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 I

In Greek the letters I (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 12: *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 ANTHEM – “A King Has Come”

Creation groaned in darkness, till 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 ev'ry nation
A King has come! Tell the news to ev'ry land
A King has come! Join your hearts in celebration!
God has sent His Son, the hope of ev'ry 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 ev'ry nation
A King has come! Tell the news to ev'ry ry land
A King has come! Join your hearts in celebration!
God has sent His Son, the hope of ev'ry 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 ev'ry nation
A King has come! Tell the news to ev'ry 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 ry man
A King has come!

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