



*The purpose of our Community is:  
 ❀❀❀ "Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ" ❀❀❀*

**Prelude**

*Shirlene Everhart*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Invocation**

*Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.*

*[Pastor]: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**[Everyone]: Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession of Sin**

**[Everyone]:** Gracious Heavenly Father, in this Epiphany season, we rejoice that You often spoke in parables to clearly state the Gospel message of salvation. We also realize that the Epiphany season is a time for the revealing of the divine purpose and work of Christ to the world! His most important work on earth was His suffering and death for our sins at Calvary. Thus, we come before You this morning during Epiphany in true contrition and sorrow over our sins. We have sinned in our words, thoughts and actions. Our speech has not always been appropriate, and our day to day lifestyle has not always been in accordance with Your Will. For all these many sins we come now in confession, and humbly seek Your pardon and mercy. Please forgive us our sins for the sake of Christ's suffering and death on our behalf, and may our lives in this Epiphany season serve our Savior in great joy and peace! In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Declaration of Grace**

*[Pastor]: Especially in this season of Epiphany, as we continue in January to contemplate a new calendar year, the Bible tells us that we are to penitently and sincerely confess our sins. Having done so in faith, we now humbly seek God's pardon. Christ has promised to us His forgiveness because of His suffering and death at Calvary. Thus, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**Opening Hymn**

*I Love to Tell the Story, #304*

**Children's Sermonette:**

'What is a parable?'

Pastor McDonald

## **Worship Through Our Giving**

*We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.*

## **Offertory**

## **We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God**

*We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

*Isaiah 38:1-8 [NKJV]*

<sup>1</sup> In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' " <sup>2</sup> Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, <sup>3</sup> and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what is good* in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. <sup>4</sup> And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. <sup>6</sup> I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city." ' <sup>7</sup> And this *is* the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken: <sup>8</sup> Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward." So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.

## **Epistle Lesson**

*I Corinthians 9:19-25 [NKJV]*

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; <sup>20</sup> and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; <sup>21</sup> to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; <sup>22</sup> to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup> Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for an imperishable crown*.

*[If you are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel]*

*Gospel Reading**Matthew 13:10-17 [NKJV]*

<sup>10</sup> And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup> And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; <sup>15</sup> For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ <sup>16</sup> But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; <sup>17</sup> for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

***We Respond to God’s Word by Confessing Our Faith***

*As we recite together the words of the Apostles’ Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.*

**Everyone: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Sermon Hymn:***

*Softly and Tenderly, #431*

***Sermon:*** ‘*Why Jesus told parables...*’

*Matthew 13:10-11*  
*Pastor Robert McDonald*

**Message Notes:**

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**Communion Hymn***Just As I Am, without One Plea, #417***We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper***Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.**Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.**Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)***Everyone: 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.***Distribution,***Benediction****Sending Hymn***Children of the Heavenly Father, #560**Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.***Everyone: Thanks be to God**

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**Postlude Music**

## ***Things going on during the week:***

**Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian School**

**Choir Practice is on vacation.**

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

***January 13, Saturday - 10 am, Pack away Christmas & Women's Bible Study***

***January 15, Monday - 10 am, Council Meeting***

***January 21, 2024 - Congregational Voter's Meeting, after Fellowship time.***

***February 4, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions***

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2023 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.

**February 19 - 9 am, Women's Bible Study**

**February 19 - 10 am, Council Meeting**

## ***Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations***

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

Community Lutheran Church, AFLC\*: 760.722.3337  
 4507 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92057  
[www.cloceanside.com](http://www.cloceanside.com)



## Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

**Little Blessings Christian Preschool: (760) 378-7973**

**Preschool Schedule: Monday – Friday ... 7:15 am to 5:00 pm**

Kristen Erwin, Preschool Director

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### Weekly Schedule:

**Sundays: 10:00 am Worship Service & Sunday School**  
**11:00 am Community Fellowship Time**

***January 21, 2024 - Congregational Meeting, after Fellowship time.***

**Monday 10:00 am Council Meeting, usually 3rd Monday of each month**

**Choir Practice is on vacation.**

**Thursdays: 5:00 pm Choir practice.**

**Saturdays: 10:00 am Women's Bible Study**  
**Second Saturday of each month**

For more information, please visit:

**Website: [www.cloceanside.com](http://www.cloceanside.com)**

**Facebook Page: Community Lutheran Oceanside**

**AFLC [Association of Free Lutheran Congregations]: [aflc.org](http://aflc.org)**



### Prayer Chain Requests

Please mark the Connection Card very clearly ... your request is for Pastor only or you want the prayer chain to pray for your request.

### Children's Activity Items

These are available for younger children during the service. They are in the cabinets at the back of the church to the left of the Prayer Room.

