

The purpose of our Community is: శాశాశా "Buíldíng Commítted Followers of Jesus Chríst" ఈఈఈ

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, we rejoice that You have seen fit to bring us safely through another year. Yet, as 2024 is now unfolding, we also ask for Your blessings and protection in this New Year! This past year, we have sinned in weakness and have done and said things that were not appropriate. We have allowed sinful anger to invade our mind. We have not always treated our family in a way that is God pleasing. Therefore, we come before You with a penitent heart, seeking Your pardon and peace for our many sins in this new year. Please pardon and forgive us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and His merits won for us on the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

[Pastor]: Especially in this new year, we truly desire to 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 announce the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Peace be with you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old, #53

Children's Sermonette: 'The Epiphany star!' Pastor McDonald

Worship Through Our Giving

We express our gratitude to God as we giveto 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 60: 1-6 [NKJV]

¹ Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. 5 Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. ⁶ The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 3: 1-7 [NKJV]

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— ² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 [NKJV]

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him,* bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

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: Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning, #58

Sermon: 'Be wise! Follow the Epiphany star to Christ!' Matthew 2:1-2

Pastor Robert McDonald

Message Notes:			
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Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together, #285

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus. #173

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.

Everyone: Thanks be to God

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!

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

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in he '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.

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

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



Weekly Schedule:

Sundays: 10:00 am Worship Service & Sunday School

11:00 am Community Fellowship Time

Mondays: 9:00 am Women's Bible Study

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

Choir Practice is on vacation.

For more information, please visit: **Website: www.cloceanside.com**

Facebook Page: Community Lutheran Oceanside

AFLC [Association of Free Lutheran Congregations]: 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.