

United In Christ Lutheran Church



WEEK TWO: RELEASE

January 19, 2025

The Rev. Katy Moran

Welcome to our church!

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,
and that you will experience God's presence here.
May God bless you during worship today.*

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: UIC Pastor

The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Through Moses, God said,
“Let my people go.”

In scripture, the law declares:
“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”

With grace, Jesus said:
“Give one coat away.”

With honesty, Jesus taught:
“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

**In this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.
May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so
that we can walk freely with God.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God,

We admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand. We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith. We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change. We put ourselves in boxes labeled with gender expectations and societal norms. We put others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.” We put all that we have in a box and pray we won’t run out. In this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point.

Open our eyes to a new way— to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

ELW 864

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.

Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



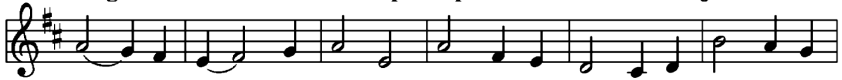
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

You call us to follow you with whole hearts, but we often find ourselves bound by the things of this world. Like the rich young man, we often struggle to release what we hold dear, help us to release what keeps us from fully following you. Open our hearts to your grace, and grant us the courage to surrender all that hinders us from more fully following you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 15:1-11

¹Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts. ²And this is the manner of the remission: every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community, because the Lord's remission has been proclaimed. ³Of a foreigner you may exact it, but you must remit your claim on whatever any member of your community owes you. ⁴There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy, ⁵if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today. ⁶When the Lord your God has blessed you, as he promised you, you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you. ⁷If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. ⁸You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. ⁹Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. ¹⁰Give liberally and be ungrudging when you

do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. ¹¹Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 19:16-22

This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 19th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

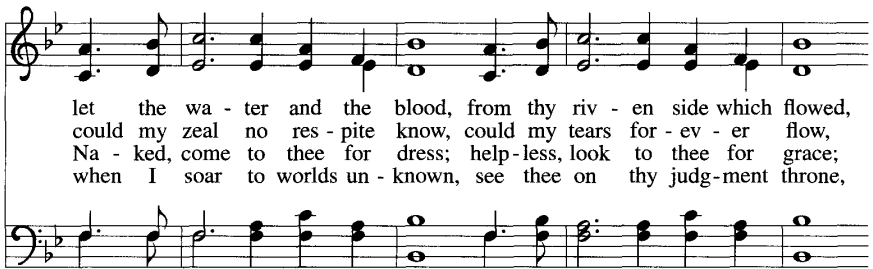
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 623

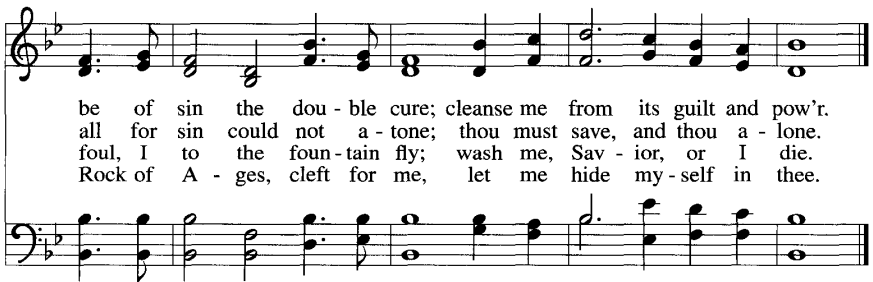
Rock of Ages



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God,

It is not always easy to give what we have. We count pennies. We weigh the pros and cons. We calculate what we have given before, and we remind ourselves what we are giving to now.

We all have our money stories.

And yet,

even though it can take work for us to practice release, we trust that you can take these gifts—however freely or reluctantly given—and use them to build a more beautiful world.

For that is who you are. You are forever building castles out of sand, disciples out of people, and new life out of cautious gifts. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, *This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.*

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, *"This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."*

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus

has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole. We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, All honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

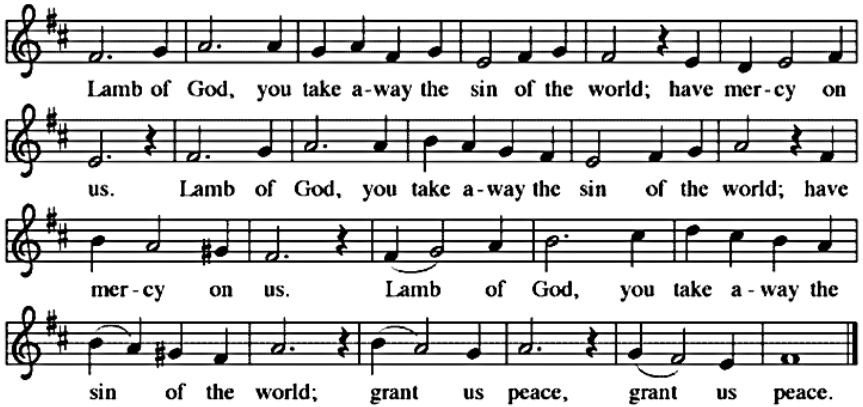
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Liberating God,

We give you thanks that in this meal you have released us from that which we cling to tightly: our systems of value; our ledgers of credit and debt; our ladders of meaning making; our economies of human worth. Nourished by your gift of life, strengthen us to practice and proclaim release for the world in order to make way for your patterns of fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of Love, Father, † Son, and Holy Sprit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, released from the burdens that keep you from
 God's presence!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Jan. 19 Week 2: Release
 Worship, 10:00am
 Social Hour, 11:15am
- Mon, Jan. 20 Newsletter Deadline
- Tue, Jan. 21 Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Fri, Jan. 24 Office Closed
- Sun, Jan. 26 Worship, 10:00am
 Social Hour, 11:15am

Monday, Jan. 20th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in February which you will not be available to serve during worship.

Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the February Newsletter need to be in the office by Monday, January 20th.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Family and friends of Joy Lynn Zimmerman, Karen Baker, Oscar Trewitz, Leroy Baker, Kylee Fawcett, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, Aaron Murray, Delroy Caris, Rachel Lynn, Desiree Starks, Carol Troxell, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Patrick Mosley, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer.



Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net.

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.

Happy Birthday

Josh Martz 1/21

Donna Byerly 1/23

Sherry Bingaman 1/23

Laylanya Olds 1/24

Sandra Brown 1/25



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Hall. You may take your flowers home after worship.



UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT
RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON JANUARY 8TH
AND 22ND



2024 GIVING STATEMENTS

Please stop by your church mailbox
for the copy of your 2024 giving statement.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Collecting food items for
Milton Panther Packs

We will be collecting individually sized food items for Milton Panther Packs which provides backpacks of food over the weekends, when school meals are not available. Every week there are over 250 children that take home food backpacks.

- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Pasta
- Soup, Stew, Chili
- Canned Chicken, Tuna
- Vacuum Packs of Tuna
- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Microwave Meals
- Micro Chef-Boyardee
- Fruit Cups
- Pudding Cups
- Granola Bars
- Pop Tarts

All can items must have pop-top lids

SCOUT SUNDAY



Join us on Sunday, February 9th as we worship with all of the Cub and Boy Scouts that meet here every week. We will have a special blessing for the scouts and their leaders, and they will be serving as lectors, ushers and greeters that day.

We are asking for extra snacks for Social Hour after worship on Sunday, February 9th. There will be lots of hungry kiddos!

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU



Men's Bible Study

6:00PM IN THE PARLOR



THURSDAYS
JANUARY 16
JANUARY 30
FEBRUARY 13
FEBRUARY 27

They will be studying the gospel of Luke.

LET US KNOW



Please let us know when you are in the hospital or have an upcoming surgery. Call the church office at 570-568-2254 to let us know. Please do not assume that if you tell someone in church that the office or pastor will find out. Because of confidentiality issues, it's best if you contact Pastor Justin or the church office directly.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| | Jan. 19 | Jan. 26 |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Worship Leader | Moran | Lingenfelter |
| Social Hour | S - Z | A - D |
| Bread/Wine | S. Keifer | S. McPherrin |
| Altar Guild | T. Cromwell | K. Guffey |
| Digital Host | T. Cromwell | K. Guffey |
| Front Door Greeter | K. Baker S. Brown | D. Byerly J. Byerly |
| Side Door Greeter | G. Weiser | R. Baker |
| Lector | R. Baker | D. Gottlieb |
| Ushers | T. McPherrin J. Mertz L. Rabuck M. Rabuck | M. Shearer B. Swartz T. Swartz B. Troxell |
| Communion Asst. | A. Stark B. Swartz | T. Cromwell E. Haussmann |
| Guest Relations | | |
| Offering Counter | L. Rabuck R. Sprenkle | M. Shearer P. Hauck |

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.



Lutheran Church

**1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-568-2254**

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Sundays at 10am

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

CHURCH OFFICE

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC