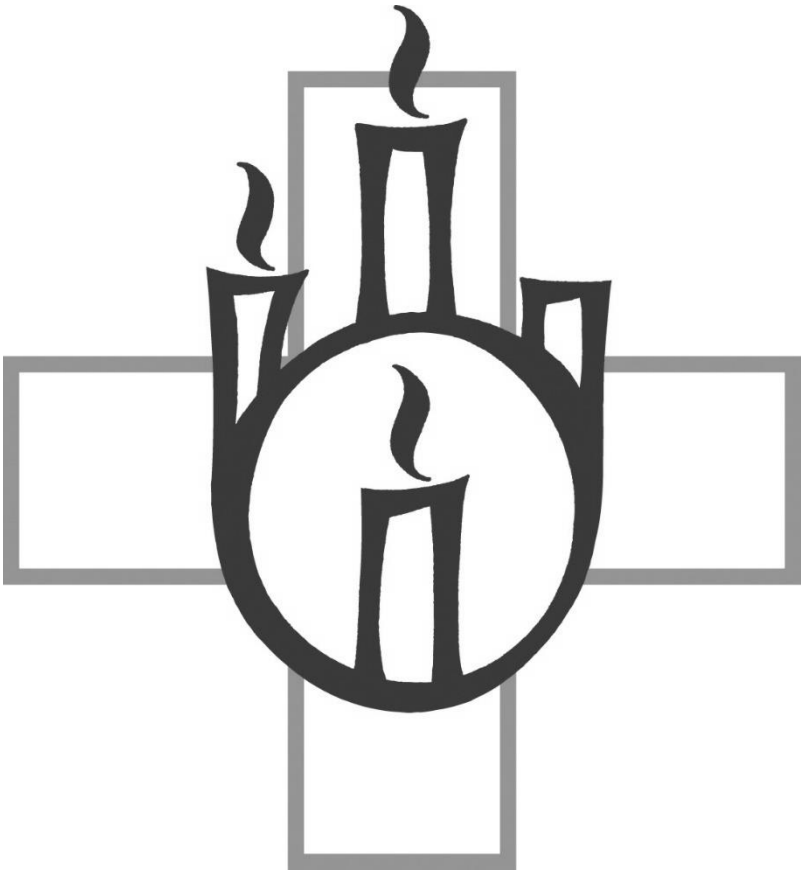


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Order of Worship

*December 11, 2022 10:45 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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## Introit

*Philippians 4:4; Psalm 71:14-18*

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually  
and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all  
the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all  
those to come.

## Communion Theology and Practice

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is intended for those:

- who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God,
- who have faith in Jesus Christ as God the Son in the flesh and their personal Savior from sin, death, and the devil;
- who believe that they have sin that needs forgiving, hurt that needs healing, and faith that needs strengthening;
- who are committed to amending their sinful ways; and
- who believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of the risen Christ, together with the forgiveness of all their sins.

# Third Sunday in Advent

## Divine Service, Setting Four

Welcome

Opening Hymn

### Praise the Almighty

LSB 797



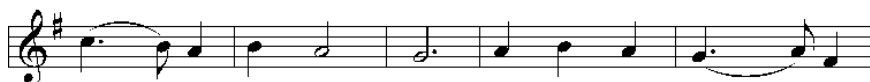
1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;  
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the  
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark  
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful  
be - ing, to praise Him solc - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath, From Him my life and  
grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no  
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren  
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with

*continued on next page*



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.  
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and Tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

- L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
  
- L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
  
- L** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 146*

*Spoken responsively, whole verse by whole verse*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**<sup>4</sup>When his breath departs he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Kyrie

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

*Arr. Martin*

**Epistle**

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."



<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

LSB 207

**C** 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, died and was  
buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will 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.**

## Hymn of the Day

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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## Sermon



## Prayer of the Church

- L** Father of all mercies, the visitation of Your Son has enlightened the darkness of our hearts and every corner of creation. Hear us as we pray in His name and according to His will.

*Response after each petition*

- L** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

**L** O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**L** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 209*

**C** 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.

**L** For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Benedicamus and Benediction

*LSB 212*

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

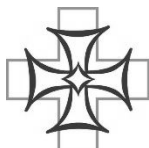
**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

**C** Amen.



# Closing Hymn

## Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing.



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en. Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11 December 2022

### Readings

Isaiah 35:1–10

James 5:7–11

Matthew 11:2–15

### ***The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross***

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *“the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *“be patient”* and *“establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *“the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,”* so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that *“sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Is. 35:10).



**Readings**

Isaiah 7:10–17

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

***God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary***

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that *"the virgin shall conceive and bear a son"* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus *"descended from David according to the flesh"* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called *"Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *"did as the angel of the Lord commanded him"* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.





# **Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship**

*Please join us in worship in this new Church Year*



## **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **Open Arms Christian Preschool Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm



## **Christmas Eve Worship**

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at  
4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

## **Christmas Day Worship**

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am



## **New Year's Eve Worship**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **New Year's Day Worship**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am