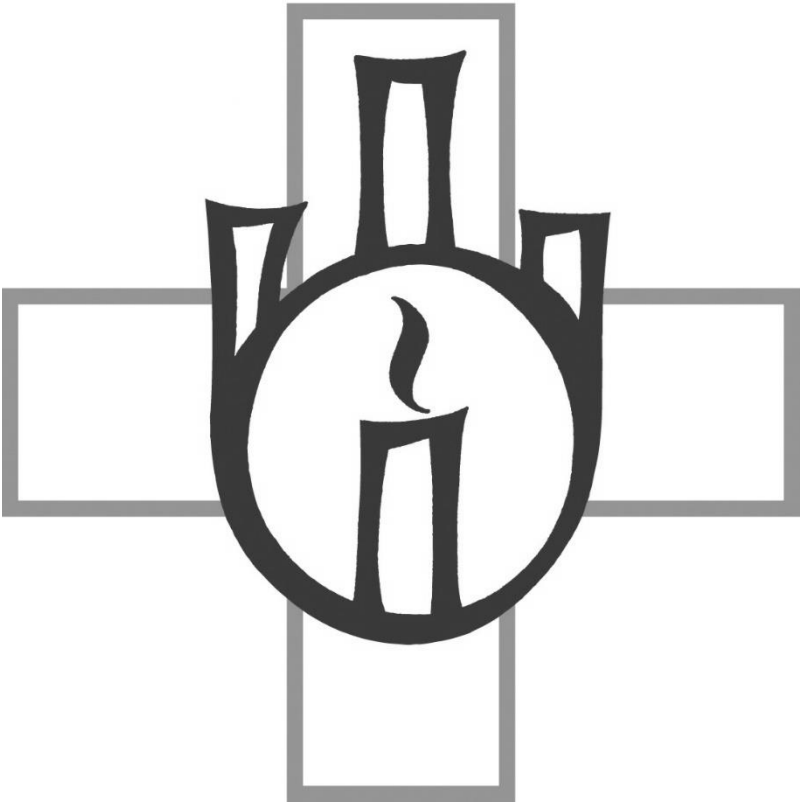


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

December 3, 2023 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Introit

Zechariah 9:9b; Psalm 25:1-3

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

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.

If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.

Thank you.

First Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Divine Service

Invocation

P This is the day the Lord has made;

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118:24

P Confident of the Lord's presence with us here in His house, we make our beginning in His powerful name; in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

C Amen.

Opening Song

Rend The Heavens

Mark

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Instrumental, Chorus

VERSE

1. This day we call up-on the liv-ing Lord and
seek Your mer-cy and Your grace;
How we, as a-na-tion, have turned our face a-way from You
and fol-lowed oth-er ways; May we see You as You are,
man-i-fest-ed, glo-ri-ous power, Lord Je-sus.

continued on next page

13 CHORUS



Rend the Heav - ens and come down in Your maj - es - ty come
down, in Your mer - cy, Lord, come down up - on us;
Clothe Your-self in robes of grace; You are wel - come in this
place where the saints are gath - ered for Your wor - ship, Lord.

23 VERSE



2. Not for our gain, but for the glo - ry of Your
Name we gath - er 'round Your throne;
And in hum - ble a - do - ra - tion plead for this gen - er - a - tion,
Je - sus, let Your name be known;
May they see You as You are,
man - i - fest - ed glo - ri - ous power, Lord Je - sus. **(TO CHORUS)**

Prayer of Confession

- P** Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.
- C** **We have not always lived our lives according to your will.**
- P** We have often failed to live up to your expectations.
- C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

- P** But we know your promise, that if we confess our sins,
C **you will hear our cry, and grant us your forgiveness.**

Silence for confession and reflection

- P** Hear us now, O Lord, as we confess our failings to you.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7

Spoken responsively

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might and come to save us!**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**⁶You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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.**

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

²⁴[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten,
not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom
all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin
Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of
the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.


Sermon Song

Power Of Your Love

Bullock

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x2

Verse



Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, re - newed,
 Lord, un-veil my eyes, let me see You, face to face,



— flow - ing from the grace that I've found in
 the know-ledge of Your love, as You live in



You;
 me; And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I
 And Lord, re - new my mind, — as Your will un-



see in me — will be stripped a - way
 folds in my life, in liv - ing ev - 'ry day



by the pow'r of Your love. _____
 by the pow'r of Your love. _____

continued on next page

Chorus

Hold me close, let Your love sur - round me,
 bring me near, draw me to Your side;
 And as I wait I'll rise up like the ea -
 gle, and I will soar with You, Your Spir - it leads me
 on in the pow'r of Your love.

Sermon

Prayers of the Church Family and the Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Response after each petition

- P** Lord, in your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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

Blessing

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Song

Be Unto Your Name

DeShazo, Sadler

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x3

VERSE

We are a mo - ment, You are for - ev - er,
We are the bro - ken, You are the heal -
er, Lord of the a - ges,
Je - sus, Re - deem - er,
God be - fore time; We are a va -
might - y to save; You are the love
por, You are sing e - ter - nal,
song we'll sing for - ev - er,

continued on next page

13

 Love - ev - er - last - ing, reign - ing on
 bow - ing be - fore - You, bless - ing Your

16

 high. name. Ho - ly,

CHORUS

19

 ho - ly Lord God Al - might - y,

22

 worth - y is the Lamb Who was slain;

26

 High - est prais - es hon - or and glo - ry

30

 be un - to Your name.

34

 be un - to Your name.

1.

38

 name. Ho - ly, ho - ly

2.

42

 Lord God Al - might - y, worth - y is the

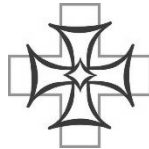
46

 Lamb Who was slain; High - est prais - es,

50
 hon - or, and glo - ry be un - to Your

54
 name, be un - to Your name.

60
 name. be-un - to your name.



Acknowledgments

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

3 December 2023

Readings

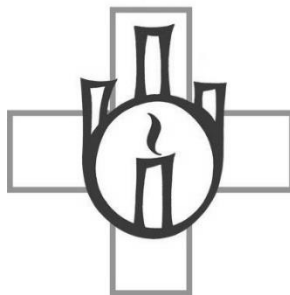
Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 11:1–10 or Mark 13:24–37

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God “*would rend the heavens and come down*” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “*have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “*a long time, and shall we be saved?*” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are “*enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge,*” and so He will “*sustain you to the end*” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “*heaven and earth will pass away,*” His words “*will not pass away*” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “*send out the angels*” to gather us and all of His elect “*from the ends of the earth*” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).



Readings

Isaiah 40:1–11

2 Peter 3:8–14

Mark 1:1–8

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

“The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes *“proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”* (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, *“the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”* (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd *“will gather the lambs in his arms”* (Is. 40:11). He speaks *“tenderly to Jerusalem,”* and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises *“new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He *“is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).



Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship

Please join us in worship in this new Church Year



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm



Open Arms Christian Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am



New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31st at 7:00 pm