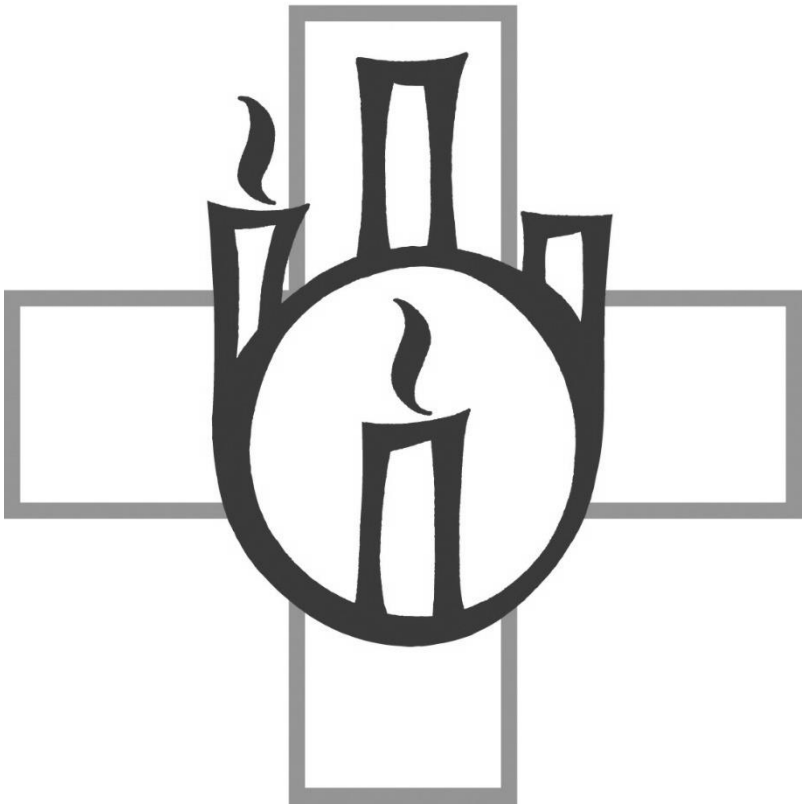


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

December 10, 2023 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Introit

Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore 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.

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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.

Second Sunday in Advent

Divine Service, Setting Two

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.**

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 85

Spoken responsively

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**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 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

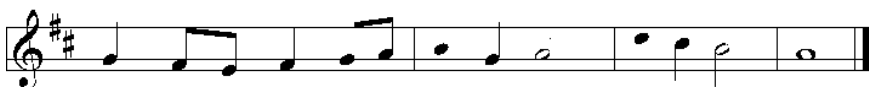
C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate

locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 174

G 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.

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

- 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,
G hear our prayer.
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

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.**

Benediction

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.**

Choir

Prepare The Royal Highway

Hopson

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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"Prepare The Royal Highway" words and music by Hal H. Hopson.

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Resources for Meditation this Week

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10 December 2023

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).



Readings

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God *“as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him”* (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to *“make straight the way of the Lord,”* who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus *“who comes after”* John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit *“to bring good news to the poor”* and *“to bind up the brokenhearted”* (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with *“the garments of salvation”* and adorns her with His own righteousness *“as a bride adorns herself with her jewels”* (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we *“rejoice always”* in the Lord, *“pray without ceasing”* and *“give thanks in all circumstances”* (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For *“the God of peace,”* who has called you by the Gospel, will surely *“sanctify you completely,”* so that *“your whole spirit and soul and body”* will *“be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thess. 5:23–24).



Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship

Please join us in worship in this new Church Year



Midweek Advent Services

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