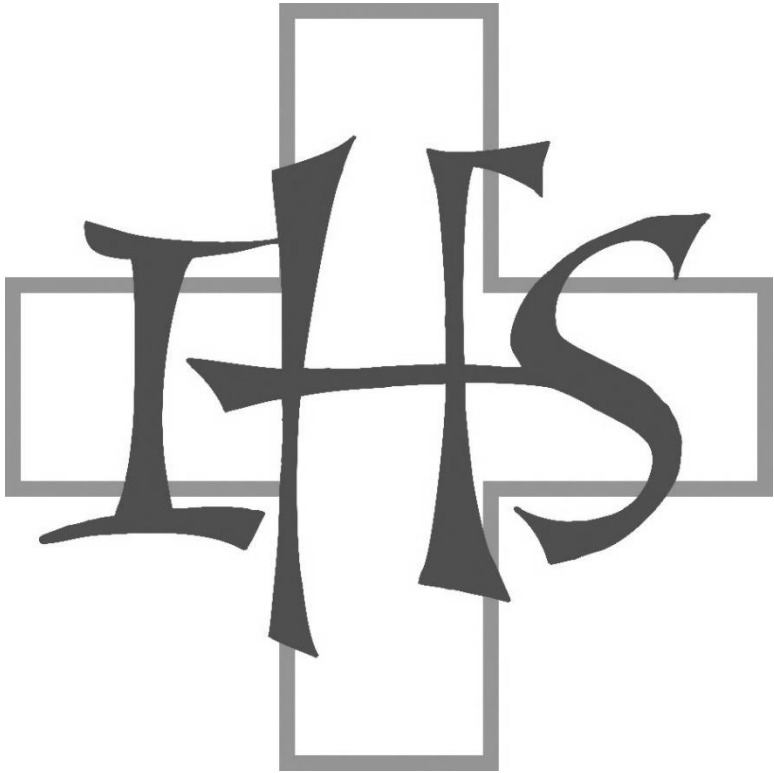


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

Order of Worship

December 31, 2023 9:00 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Introit

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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.

First Sunday after Christmas

Welcome

Divine Service

Invocation & Christmas Litany

L In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

John 8:12

C The Light no darkness can overcome.

John 1:5

L The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Opening Song

Here I Am To Worship

Hughes

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 1, Chorus x2

Musical score for the opening song "Here I Am To Worship" by Hughes. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff is marked "VERSE" and includes two verses of lyrics. The second staff begins with a measure rest of 3 measures. The third staff begins with a measure rest of 5 measures. The fourth staff begins with a measure rest of 7 measures.

VERSE

1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness,
2. King of all days, O so high - ly ex - alt - ed,

o - pened my eyes, let me see
Glor - ious in Heav - en a - bove;

beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,
Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted,

hope of a life spent with You
all for love's sake be - came poor.

continued on next page

9 CHORUS

Here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down; Here I am to
 12 say that You're my God; You're al-to-geth-er love-ly, al-to-geth-er
 15 wor-thy, al-to-geth-er won-der-ful to me.

Prayer of Confession

- L** 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.**
- L** We have often failed to live up to your expectations.
- C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- L** 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

- L** 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.**
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 111

Spoken responsively

¹Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**²Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

**¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

**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.**



Song of Praise

All Heaven Declares

Richards, Richards

Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 1, Tag



All heav'n de - clares the com-ing of the
I will pro - claim the com-ing of the



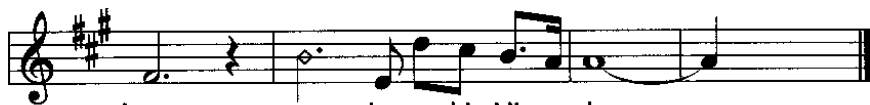
new born King; Who can com - pare with the beau - ty
new born King; Who once was slain to rec - con - cile _



of the Lord? For - ev - er He will be
man to God. For - ev - er You will be



the Lamb up - on the throne; I glad - ly bow the
the Lamb up - on the throne; I glad - ly bow the



knee and wor - ship Him a - lone,
knee and wor - ship You a - lone,

Prayer

L Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

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.



Song of the Day

Ancient Words

DeShazo

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus x2, Verse 4, Chorus x2, Ending

VERSE 1



1. Ho-ly_ words long pre - served for our walk in this world;_



— They re-sound— with God's own heart, O, let the

continued on next page

§ VERSES 2, 3 & 4



an-cient words im - part;

2. Words of life, words of
(3.) words of our
(4.) blood stains each



hope, give us strength, help us cope;
faith hand - ed down to this age,
page, they have died for this faith;



— In this world wher - e'er we
— came to us through sac - ri -
— Hear them cry through the



roam, an - cient words will guide us home.
fice; O, heed the faith - ful words of Christ.
years; Heed these words and hold them dear.

CHORUS



An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing



you; We have come with o - pen hearts, O let the



an-cient words im - part. 3. Ho - ly part. An-cient

CHORUS



words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing you; We have

2nd time to Coda ⊕

come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im - part.

INSTRUMENTAL D.S. al Coda

4. Mar - tyr's_

⊕ Coda ENDING

part. We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the

an - cient words im - part.

O let the an - cient words im - part.

Sermon

“Waiting and Witnessing”

Luke 2:22-40



Prayers of the Church Family

- L Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ’s blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year.

Response after each petition

L Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

L 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.

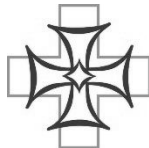
Benediction

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 Song

Faithful To Lead Us On

Baloche, Kerr

Chorus x2, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x2

CHORUS

A/E Bm/E A A/D D E A/E Bm/E

You are faith - ful to lead us on, more than

A A/D D E E/D

a - ble to keep us strong; Walk - ing be - fore us You

A/C# D 1.3. Bm7 Esus E A A/E Bm/E

light our way, faith - ful to lead us on. You are

2.4. Bm7 Esus E A

faith - ful to lead us on.

VERSE

E D A D/A A D

1. You've brought us out of the wil - der - ness,
2. Called out of dark - ness in - to your light,

E D A2

guid - ing us home by Your hand;
cho - sen to lift up Your name;

G D/F# A B/D#

Now You're pre - par - ing a place for us, we'll go, we'll
We'll see Your king - dom es - tab - lished here, come rule, come

Esus A/E Bm/E 5. Bm7 Esus E A Fine

stand. You are faith - ful to lead us on.
reign.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

31 December 2023

Readings

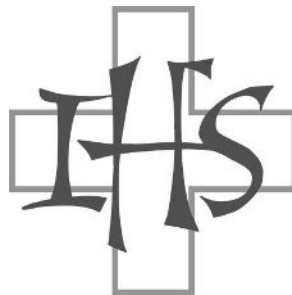
Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son," born of the woman, *"to redeem those who were under the law"* (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, *"according to the Law of Moses,"* Mary and Joseph *"brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *"waiting for the consolation of Israel"* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *"At that very hour,"* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *"began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *"righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"* (Is. 61:11). We also *"greatly rejoice in the LORD,"* because this child has clothed us *"with the garments of salvation,"* covered us *"with the robe of righteousness"* and called us *"by a new name"* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

7 January 2024

Readings

Genesis 1:1–5

Romans 6:1–11

Mark 1:4–11

In Holy Baptism, the Triune God Reveals Himself and Recreates Us in His Image

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Then, as *"the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters"* (Gen. 1:2), God spoke His Word: *"Let there be light, and there was light"* (Gen. 1:3). In the same way, *"the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ"* (Mark 1:1) brings about the new creation through the waters of Baptism by the same Word and Spirit of God. When John the Baptist came, *"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,"* Jesus also came *"and was baptized by John in the Jordan"* (Mark 1:4, 9). Although He had no sins of His own, He took His stand with sinners in His Baptism and took the sins and mortality of the world upon Himself. He was baptized into His own death, by which the heavens are opened and the Spirit is given to us. God the Father is well pleased with His beloved Son and raises Him from the dead. As we share His Baptism and are *"united with him in a death like his"* (Rom. 6:5), we also share His resurrection unto *"newness of life"* (Rom. 6:4).

