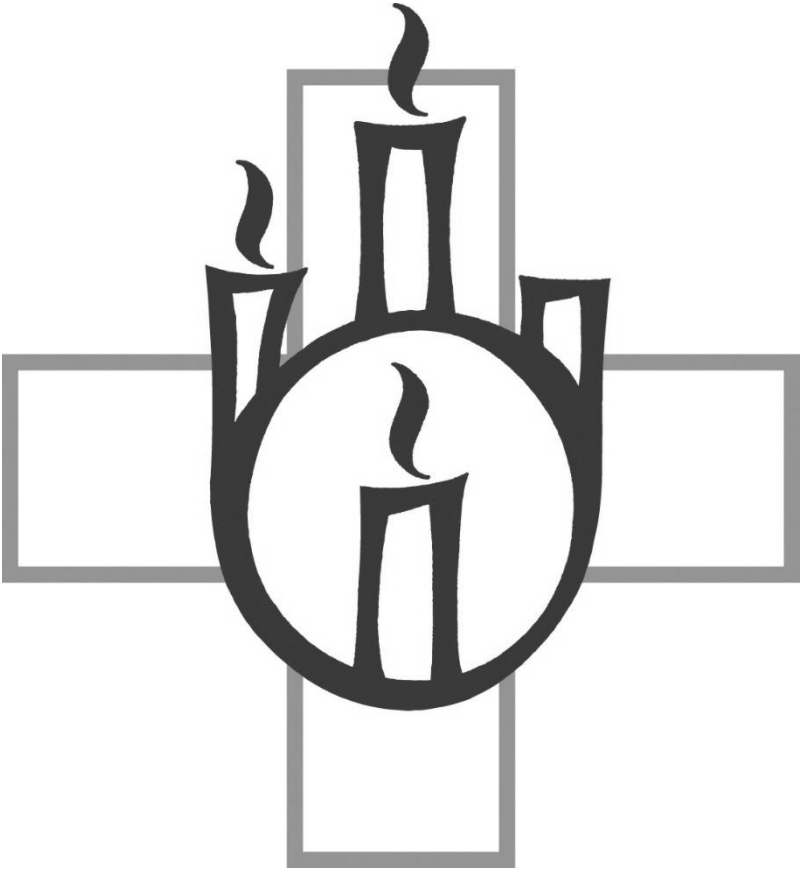


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

December 15, 2024 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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781-275-6013

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Introit

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

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

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the
righteous.

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.

Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service

Welcome

Invocation

Matthew 28:19

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

C Amen.

Opening Song

Come And Behold Him

Chisum, Searcy

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x2

Come and be - hold Him, come, see His glo - ry, come with an
Come and be - hold Him, come, see His mer - cy, come find His
hon - est heart to see all He is; We will dis - cov - er
ten - der - ness reaching to you; Just as a mir - ror
all of His beau - ty, His light will burn a
shows a re - flec - tion. His Word and Spir - it
way all the darkness we've known Come and be - hold
come, now reflecting His love.
Him, come and be - hold Him, come with an hon - est heart to see all He
is; Come and be - hold Him, wait now be - fore
Him, come with an hon - est heart to see all He is.

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 reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

- 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.**

Absolution

- 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 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.

**⁴Restore 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.**

Prayer

P Let us pray.
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

Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

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

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

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

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

- ☩ 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.**



Song of the Day

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



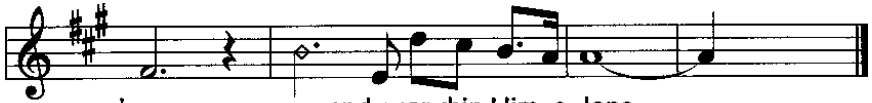
new born King; Who can com - pare with the beau - ty
new born King; Who once was slain to rec - con - cile _



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,

Sermon

"The Greatest and the Least"

Luke 7:28



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** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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:

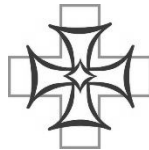
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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

We Adore You

Baloche, Janis

Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus

VERSE

Ho - ly Child, Em - man - u - el; _____

3 hope of all the a - ges, and the cry of ev - 'ry heart. Bow - ing

5 down, we lift You up; _____ You're the One we wor - ship, _____

8 **CHORUS**
You're the One we love. _____ We a - dore _____ You, we a -

10 dore You, we a - dore You, Je -

12 sus. We a - dore _____ You, we a -

14 dore _____ You, we a - dore _____ You, Je - sus.



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

15 December 2024

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning "Rejoice!" For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; *"he has cleared away your enemies," "taken away the judgments against you"* and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to *"rejoice in the Lord always,"* knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even *"the dead are raised up"* (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

22 December 2024

Readings

Micah 5:2–5a

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)

The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48–49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to *“shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD.”* He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39–45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.



Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship

Please join us in worship in this new Church Year



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm

Open Arms Christian Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 pm



Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25th at 9:00 am



New Year's Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 31st at 7:00 pm