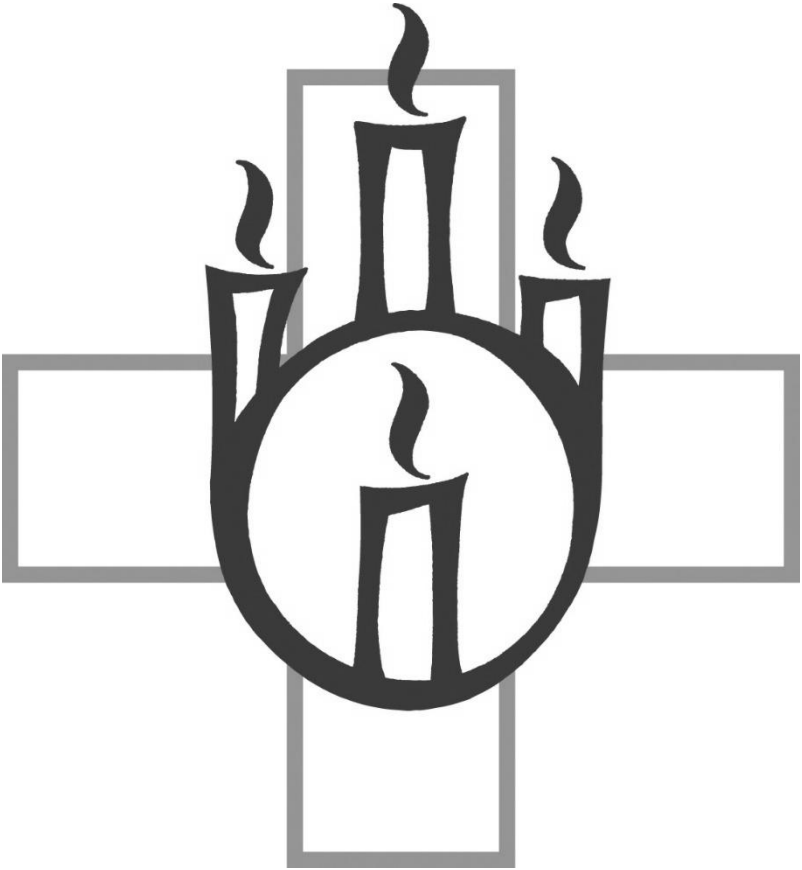


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

December 22, 2024 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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Introit

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like the LORD;
there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

*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.*

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.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Divine Service, Setting Two

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



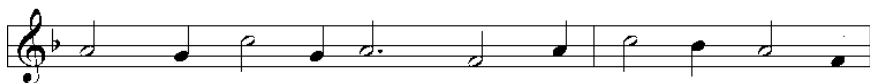
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best, Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Invocation

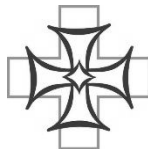
- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- L** 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

- L** 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.**
- 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.**



Service of the Word

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!

Kyrie

LSB 168

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

“A Prelude to Advent”

Chopin, Arr. Schram

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a melodic line with a whole rest followed by quarter, eighth, and quarter notes. Below the staff is the text "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff continues the melody with quarter, eighth, quarter, and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. Below it is the text "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia."

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the

sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

LSB 175

G 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

Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

LSB 564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
 2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
 3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
 4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
 Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
 He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
 Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
 "A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,
 To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
 His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
 "A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."
 With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
 That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near, Washed in that precious flood
 And enter the Most Holy Place By Jesus' blood.
 From hearts that are sincere, Let tongues our hope profess,
 And trust anew God's faithful grace That we confess.

△6 All praise to Christ we bring, Our Lord who intercedes,
 Our great High Priest enthroned above Who knows our needs;
 And to the Father sing Our songs of thankful praise,
 Who with the Spirit reigns in love For endless days.

Sermon "The Christmas Story According to Jesus"

Hebrews 10:5–10

Prayer of the Church

- L** O Lord, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.

Response after each petition

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly the King of the nations and their desire. He who formed us of clay took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

- 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

LSB 183

- 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.
- G** Amen.

Closing Hymn

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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Acknowledgments

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"A Prelude to Advent". Frederic Chopin, Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

29 December 2024

Readings

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

Colossians 3:12–17

Luke 2:22–40

The Firstborn Son of God Is Our Redemption from Sin and Death

When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus *"brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"* (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for *"the redemption of Jerusalem"* and *"the consolation of Israel"* (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in *"giving thanks to God the Father through him," "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,"* including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).