



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Our Mission: *We gather together to explore and celebrate the wonder of Christ, equipping all to live a God centered life.*

Second Sunday of Advent- December 3, 2023

Welcome to worship! We celebrate Holy Communion at each service. Guests and visitors are always welcome and we are filled with joy at your presence with us! The “pray-ground” near the organ is available for those families with little ones to sit and enjoy while being part of our worship. A Parent Room is also available for your use if your child just needs a space of their own! Ushers are available if you need any assistance or have any questions.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

** Indicates to stand as you are able*

SIGN OF THE CROSS: *We remember + our baptismal calling.*

WREATH: In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. Today in this place, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light the first candle in hope and now light this second candle for peace.

As the First Two Candles of the Advent wreath are lit we hear God's Word:

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 40:1-8:

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the

field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

***GATHERING HYMN:** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* # 249

***GREETING:** *...and also with you*

***ADVENT PRAYER:** Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. **God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come. Emmanuel- God with us- come, we pray. Amen.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Wait for the Lord* #262

***SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY:** *Mark 1:1-8* The Lord is with you. **And also with you.** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ!**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES & VISIO DIVINA PJ

(Visio Divina is translated as "divine seeing." It is related to the prayer form Lectio Divina (divine reading), but instead of Scripture, this form of prayer uses visual elements to help set your mind on prayer. It allows God to speak into your heart through the image. Focus your eyes and mind on the image, on the words you hear and the music playing in the background. If a thought comes into your mind, let it come and go. Pray the prayer of your heart!)

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *We lift up our prayers and needs of the church and community. Our spoken response is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”*

OFFERING ~ *We are grateful for your presence today and we never want you to feel obligated to give. Our parishioners are responsible for supporting our ministry and mission through their gifts to God. If you would like to give a gift today, you are welcome to place it in the offering box in the center aisle. Any gifts placed into Noah’s Ark through the end of the year will go towards the Waukesha Memorial Fund.*



***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray together:

O God, we offer back with joy this day our lives and our offerings- gifts themselves from You. Receive us and these gifts as we strive to share Your light with the world! In the name of Jesus we pray: Amen! *(offering container brought forward by ushers)*

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *Jesus’ words at the Last Supper become our prayer over the bread and wine.*

***THE LORD’S PRAYER:** *We pray the words of peace that Jesus gave us.*

***HOLY COMMUNION:** The gifts of God for the people of God: **Thanks be to God!**

A Word about Communion here at OSLC...

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to receive baked bread and then dip that bread into the glass of red wine or juice. Gluten free bread is available as well. For those who prefer, communion kits are available in a basket near the front of the sanctuary. All are welcome to share in this meal with us!

***COMMUNION BLESSING:** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his resurrected grace: **AMEN!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Let us pray together:
We delight in the grace of this meal, O God. Help us to come towards your Emmanuel in the days and weeks ahead. In the name of Jesus we pray together: Amen!

***FINAL BLESSING:** May God go before you to guide you; be behind you to encourage you; above you to watch over you and beneath you to support you. But may you discover the presence of God within you and know that God will always be your friend. **AMEN!**

***SENDING SONG:** *People, Look East* #248

***SENDING PROCLAMATION:** Go in Advent peace to be church after church!
Thanks be to God!

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Welcome to Worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. Welcome to friends new and old. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. Welcome.