



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.*

Third Sunday of Advent- December 10, 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, the second candle for peace and third candle as a witness to joy.

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

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 61:1-4:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

***GATHERING HYMN:** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #490*

***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, God of joy, into our darkness come. Emmanuel- God with us- come, we pray. Amen.**

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

***SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY:** *John 1:6-8; 19-28* The Lord is with you. **And also with you.** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ!**

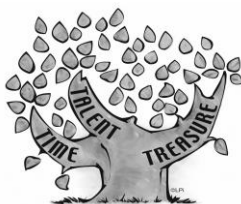
CHOIR MEDITATION: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel with Chimes*

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. 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)*

***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:** *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness #251*

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

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Playful Hearts Childcare (262) 338-0172



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.