

Advent 3
December 13, 2020

Contemporary Worship



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

SERVICE OF PRAISE

WELCOME to Our Savior Lutheran Church & School!

This is a contemporary worship service, designed to communicate the eternal message of God's love in a contemporary style. We offer this service to demonstrate that the message of God in Christ remains the same even though the style or method used to communicate that message varies. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In him we find God's greatest gift of love.

So we invite our guests not just to know, but also to engage the power of God's Word. We pray that as you grow closer to the Savior, you will be uplifted and strengthened for the challenges that lie ahead this week. We encourage you to continue to engage the truth of God's Word by joining us between services for a study of God's Word in our Bible classes. We also invite you to join us again. Bring your friends with you, too!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

WORSHIP NOTES

I'll never forget the stark shock I had at Seminary reading the words of Isaiah 49, ""Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." God's unconditional love goes way beyond anything we can describe here in our world, through one can barely imagine a mother forgetting her baby. And God's faithfulness means he will never stop loving his offspring until the new day dawns in eternity. God remains committed to us regardless of our response. That is amazing Good News! That is an amazing God thing! If you need proof, just look at his hands.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PASTOR WELCOMES US TO WORSHIP

WE OPEN WITH SONG “LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING” (P.8) CWS #704:1-3

WE ASK THE LORD TO FORGIVE US AND LEAD US

- P: This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." Aware of his Advent among us, we gather this day in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Lord, come to live in us! Lord, help us live for you! Lord, let us praise you with our hearts, souls, and minds. We sing for joy to the Lord and shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- P: O Lord, in your holiness you show your anger because we've sinned. Like the children of Israel, your chosen people, we continue to sin even when we know what we're doing.
- C: **Can we still be rescued from the darkness and dominion of evil?**
- P: Not by ourselves, for the prophet Isaiah declares that we've all become unclean, our righteous acts are like permanently stained rags and we shrivel like the dead leaves. Our sins carry us away like the wind.
- C: **Apart from the gospel, no one calls on your name. Left to ourselves, we are ruined in our sin. Lord, God of grace, please do not hide your face from us.**
- P: Father, forgive us for we have sinned against your holiness and your good will. Tear open our hearts with repentance. Remove our guilt forever.
- C: **Do not be angry with us, Lord, for we are your people. Come down and look upon us with mercy.**

(Quiet Moments for Personal Prayer & Confession)

- P: Our God is a great God. He provides for all our needs. He gives us daily bread and draws us to himself with his love. Our sin no longer controls us. Our lives are the response to his love. The death of his Son, Jesus Christ, has paid the cost of our sin and has set us free to live in victory. We are forgiven. We are sons and daughters of the King. We are “ministers of reconciliation” to each other as we share in the forgiveness of sins. Praise God for his compassion and love.
- C: **Rejoice! The LORD IS Come!**

SONG “LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING” (P.8)

CWS #704:4

PRAYER

ALL: Loving Savior, the treasure of your mercy has turned our lives from sin, despair, and death into a jubilee of forgiveness and joy. Empower us by your great love to share this joyful good news, so that many more people might know your mercy and praise your name. We pray to you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

WE JOIN IN SONG "COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS" (P. 9) CW #6

WHAT IS PRAISE AND HOW CAN WE PRAISE GOD?

WE PRAISE GOD WITH JOY

ALL: "Clap your hands all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy." (Psalm 47:1,6)

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:1-2)

"The people offered many sacrifices that day and were happy because God had given them great joy." (Nehemiah 12:42)

"And having knelt in worship of him, they went back to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were always in the Temple, praising God" (Luke 24:52-53)

WE PRAISE GOD WITH OUR LIVES

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 4:1-6

It's not an idle question: Do you want the Savior who was promised? He is the only Savior there will ever be. Those who despise the message of his coming either because they don't like the messenger or because they are too proud to receive salvation as a gift, will be humbled. Make no mistake about that! Their humbling will be devastating, complete, everlasting. Fathers, prepare your children for the real Savior, the real gift at Christmas. Children, turn your ears to your father's words and make ready to receive the only gift that matters, and the only one that will save when he comes again in judgment.

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be

ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the LORD Almighty. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A lot of people still just want the twinkling of Christmas tree lights and the glitter of tinsel. They do not want the Light of the world who will dispel the darkness of unbelief with the light of the gospel. They may want something at Christmas that looks a little religious. But they do not want to confess with John that they are all darkness and foolishness, all sin and perversity, until the Light comes to expel the darkness of unbelief and save by his works and not our own. What do you want for Christmas?

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ. " They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' " Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

WE RESPOND

“ZION, AT YOUR SHINING GATES” (P. 10)

CWS #701

WHY DO WE WORSHIP AND PRAISE OUR GOD?

IN HIS MERCY, GOD SENT HIS SON TO SAVE US.

WE LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM HIS WORD

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

“THE PROMISE OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS”

WE STATE WHAT WE BELIEVE

- P: Because we need a Creator to make sense of our world, because we need a Father who will care for us in this world, because Scripture gives us this God we need:
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
- P: Because we need a Substitute willing to take our place under divine law and divine justice, because we need a Sacrifice sufficient to pay for all our sins, because we need a Lord who will take our side in the judgment, because Scripture gives us this Savior we need:
- C: I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- P: Because we need the certainty of faith and the comfort of hope, because we need a community of believers who will share our Christian walk, because Scripture gives us this Spirit we need:
- C: 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.**

GOD GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES TO APPRECIATE HIS GOODNESS AND MERCY

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Guests please do not feel any obligation to participate in the offering (though you are always welcome to do so). Find and fill out a Guest Card as you leave, and drop it in with the offerings so we can connect with you – thanks!

WE PRAY AND JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

WE PRAISE GOD BY PROCLAIMING HIS NAME TO OTHERS

WE PRAY TOGETHER

All: Oh most wonderful, glorious, and awesome Lord, we honor and praise you for all you have done for us. You have given us all we need - peace forever and life eternal. Let our lives be instruments of praise to you. Give us the power and strength we need to be not only hearers of your Word, but doers as well. We humbly offer you this prayer. Amen

WE LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE WITH HIS BLESSING

P: May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

C: **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.** (2 Thess.2:16-17; 1 Tim.1:17)

CLOSING SONG

"SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME"

(P.11)

CW #2

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

704 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be -
 3 Those dear to - kens of his
 4 Yea, A - men, let all a -



scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner
 hold him Robed in glo - rious maj - es -
 pas - sion Still his daz - zling bod - y
 dore you High on your e - ter - nal



slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand
 ty; Those who ri - di -
 bears, Cause of end - less
 throne. Ev - 'ry knee shall



saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph
 culed and sold him, Pierced and nailed him
 ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed
 bow be - fore you; Come and take your



of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to the tree, Deep - ly wail - ing,
 wor - ship - ers. With what won - der,
 peo - ple home! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,
 With what won - der, With what won - der,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.
 You shall reign and you a - lone!

This glorious Advent hymn by Charles Wesley is set to its traditional English tune, HELMSLEY.

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

6

1 Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set your peo-ple free;
2 Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, Born a child and yet a king,

From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal-va-ry.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now your gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's Strength and Con-so-la-tion, Hope to all the earth im-part,
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

Dear De-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to your glo-ri-ous throne.

701

Zion, at Your Shining Gates



1 Zi - on, at your shin - ing gates, See, the
 2 Christ, your king - dom comes to - day As we
 3 Come and give us peace with - in, Loose us
 4 Give us grace your yoke to wear, Give us
 5 So when you shall come a - gain, Lord of



King of glo - ry waits; Haste your mon - arch now to
 hear your Spir - it say: "God's own Son, a sac - ri -
 from the bands of sin, Take a - way the heav - y
 strength your cross to bear, Make us yours in deed and
 an - gels and of men, We with all your saints shall



greet, Spread your palms be - fore his feet.
 fice— Sin - ners' way to par - a - dise."
 weight Laid on us by greed and hate.
 word, Yours in heart and life, O Lord.
 sing Loud ho - san - nas to our King.

Text (st. 1, 3-5): Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1804–1889, alt.

Text (st. 2): Michael Schultz, b. 1963 © 2006 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (12/13)	8:00	am	Contemporary Worship Service
	9:15	am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30	am	Contemporary Worship Service
Monday	5:30	pm	Board of Education Meeting
	5:30	pm	Board of Elders Meeting
	7:00	pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	8:20	am	Children's Chapel
	4:00	pm	Public School Confirmation Class
Thursday	7:00	pm	Advent Worship w/communion
Sunday (12/20)	8:00	am	Worship w/communion
	9:15	am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30	am	Worship w/communion

Next Week's Readings

First Lesson	Genesis 4:1, 2, 6-8, 25-5:5
Second Lesson	Revelations 12:1-6
Gospel	Luke 1:39:55
Psalm	Psalm 85

*LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday
This service is also recorded for review after livestream.
Link on our website (see below).*

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

"GOD KEEPS ALL HIS
PROMISES"

Service Theme

PASTOR

MARK WAGNER

MUSICIAN

ZACH STEINBACH

SONGS

AS PRINTED

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 4:1-6

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

THE SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**"THE PROMISE OF
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS"**

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