



**December 11-12, 2021**  
**ADVENT 3**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin  
608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** God gathers us through Word and Sacrament to celebrate God's presence and to receive God's gift of grace. God has made us his people through our baptism and keeps us close to him through the preaching of the word and God's presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We give thanks today for the gift of faith God has planted in us, and we depart to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We extend a special **welcome** to those who are our guests. May God bless this time of worship for you as we are blessed by your presence. If you have no church home we invite you to join with us and consider Our Savior's as your church home. If you are not baptized and would like to talk about baptism as part of your faith journey, please speak with one of the pastors.

**OFFERING:** No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website: [oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving](http://oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving). Or text 608-471-7267.

# Order of Worship

## Welcome

**Meditation:** Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**Handbell Choir**      "Away in a Manger"

## **Gospel** Luke 3:7-18

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## Sermon

## Hymn "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Prayers

P: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

*(Sunday worship - after a brief silence ... The **congregation** is invited to read aloud individually the prayer petitions as the spirit moves them. If more than one person reads the petition, all the better!)*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, watch over your servants to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Lily, Kylie, and Emelia as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Communion Liturgy**

### **Lord's Prayer**

## Invitation to Communion

*HOLY COMMUNION All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Both wine and grape juice are available – grape juice glasses are purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.*

## Post Communion Prayer

### Hymn "The King Shall Come"



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

## Blessing

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU** to the handbell choir members for sharing their music with us today – Laurie Noelke (director), Amanda Christianson, Bonny Goodenough, Alison Hemker, Mali Hemker, Carolyn Karl, and Carol Stekel.

**COME AND WORSHIP:**

Join us for worship on Saturdays at 6 PM and Sundays at 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

**USHERS NEEDED:** Go to SignUpGenius on the church website to volunteer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** at 9:15 AM

for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Sunday, December 12

for PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Sunday, December 19

**CONFIRMATION MINISTRY:**

December 15 -

6 PM – Class for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

6 PM – 7-8-9 Caroling

Check out the December newsletter

([www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)) to find out more ...

**Remember – masks are required when you are in the building. Thank you!**



## **Midweek Advent Worship - Wednesday 7PM**

### **December 15 - Children's Christmas Program**

*Come and see kids and families share the message of the season!*



## **Christmas Eve and Day - In Building worship**

**Carols and Holy Communion -**

**1:30 - 3:00 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM**

**Late Evening Holy Communion - 10 PM**

**Masks required + SIGN-UP at SignUpGenius:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-worship>

**Zoom Holy Communion - 8 PM at the Holthaus Farm**

*Zoom link on the home page of our web site*

**YouTube Worship - Video posted on web site by 1 PM**

## **Christmas Morning! - Holy Communion worship at 10 AM**

**Masks required**