



December 4-5, 2021
Advent 2

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
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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: oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving. Or text 608-471-7267.

Order of Worship

Welcome

Meditation: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them home-ward.**

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

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

Sermon

Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your love, and watch over your servants to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Deanna and Trevor 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 remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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 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 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”



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



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael’s strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine 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 thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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 PreK-2nd Grade - Sunday, December 5
for 3rd-5th Grade - Sunday, December 12

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY:
December 8 -
6 PM – Class for 6th & 8th Grade

Lakeview Caring Tree Gifts – Due in the office by December 5.

Poinsettia Order Forms – Due in the office by Dec 10.

Check out the December newsletter
(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 8 - Seasonal "Ups and Downs"

Weather permitting, we end worship outdoors with a treat

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