

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent



SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS
COME



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #95

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

P Pastor

C **Congregation**

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

The Introit

Ps. 25:1-5, 21-22

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**
- P** Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
- C** **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**
- P** May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.
- C** **Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH 68:5

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

C ♪ **All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**

Jeremiah 23:5-8

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' ⁷ "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land

of Egypt,'⁸ but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #60

"Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

Matthew 21:1-9

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of

Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them

to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

How Do You Prepare for Christmas?

- I. With worldly hype? → Disappointment
- II. With spiritual hope? → Unending Joy

The Offertory

G ♪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: WS #701

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** ♪ *And with thy spirit.*
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** ♪ *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

The Order of Holy Communion



- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, Our God.
- G** ♪ *It is meet and right so to do.*
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and

archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

C ♪ *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.*

The Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C ♪ *Amen.*

The Agnus Dei

Latin phrase meaning, "Lamb of God."

C ♪ *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

The Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

- C** *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant Depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation; Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.*

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C** *Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: TLH #59:1-3, 6

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Voters' Election Meeting – Following the service this morning, the voters are asked to stay for a quick election meeting.

Advent Begins – Our midweek Advent services begin this Wednesday at 9:30 am. The theme for this year's three midweek services is "Advent Passwords." If you are able, please take time to join us in preparation for our Savior's birth!

Dec. 6th – **The Password is Watch** - Psalm 130:5-8

Dec. 13th – **The Password is Trust** - Matthew 1:18-24

Dec. 20th – **The Password is Love** - 1 John 4:9-11

CLC Call News: Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, **is still considering** the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC **is still considering** a call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 4 – December 8, '23

Mon Luke 1:68-75 Zachariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, holds his “miracle” baby in his arms, but speaks of the greater miracle: **salvation** from the hand of all enemies, so that God may be worshiped without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days (v74-75).

Tues Luke 1:76-79 The son born to Zachariah in his old age will be important because he will prepare for the Lord who comes. That Rising Sun from on high (v78) will bring salvation by the forgiveness of sins.

Wed Revelation 1:4-6 John writes to seven churches in which the Spirit of God has been working, proclaiming to them the grace and peace which came by Jesus Christ, who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His own blood (v5). How we look forward to His coming!

Thur Revelation 1:7-8 The Lord who was pierced (with spear and nails) will come again in glory, not as the lowly child of Bethlehem, but with “clouds,” that is, with power and majesty. At the close of this book Jesus again promises to come as the Alpha and Omega, the Lord God Himself (22:13).

Fri Isaiah 61:1-3 Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, His work was laid out by the prophet: to preach good news, to bind up broken hearts, to proclaim freedom and release, the Lord's favor and victory, to comfort mourners and provide them with beauty and joy.

Sat 2 Timothy 3:10-17 When things go from bad to worse, remember how God rescued His servants of old who proclaimed and clung to His Word. That Word will continue to equip us all to live our lives to our Savior's glory.