



The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

*We Greet Our Members and Visitors
Warmly In Jesus' Name.*

The Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 8, 2024



Welcome to Worship at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Sharing the Gospel, Learning God's Love, Reaching and Lifting Up Creation!
2415 Chili Avenue. Rochester, NY, 14624 | 585-247-7824 | www.oursaviourrochester.org

Announcements & Gathering Prayer

Pastor: Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sin to our charge, but forgive what is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before thee now and evermore.

All: Amen.

Pre-Service Music (*please join the choir in singing these new Advent hymns if you are able*)

A Hymn: "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



A Hymn: "Come Now, O God"

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

A Children's Bell Prelude

played by "The Young Ringers," led by Diane Parke/Potter

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: "God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen"

All: **As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to pray and remember that you are God. Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.**

Pastor: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.



Pastor: And now let us turn our attention to the Advent Wreath. Let us pray.

(The second candle on the wreath is lit by the newly married Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Shannon Krupnicki, while the prayer is being read)

Pastor: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace.

All: **Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace.**

Pastor: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

All: **May the light from this candle declare to the world that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.**

Pastor: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

All: **Amen.**

Entrance Psalm 85: “Show Us Your Unfailing Love”

REFRAIN

Gerald Coleman

Show us your un-fail-ing love, O Lord, and grant us your sal-va-tion.

Cantor: You showed favor to your [land, O Lord;]* you restored the fortunes of [Jacob].
 You forgave the iniquity of your [people]* and covered [all their sins].
 You set aside [all your wrath]* and turned from your fierce [anger].
 Restore us again, O God our [Savior],* and put away your displeasure [toward us].

All sing:(REFRAIN)

Cantor: Will you be angry with us for[ever]?* will you prolong your anger through all gener[at]ions)?
 Will you not revive [us again,]* that your people may re[j]oice in you)?
 Show us your unfailing [love, O Lord,]* and grant us your sal[va]tion].
 I will listen to what God the [Lord will say:]* he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to {folly}].

All sing:(REFRAIN)

Cantor: Surely his salvation is near those who [fear him,]* that his glory may dwell [in our land].
 Love and faithfulness met to[gether;]* righteousness and peace kiss each [other].
 Faithfulness springs forth [from the earth,]* and righteousness looks down from [heaven].
 The Lord will indeed give [what is good]* and our land will yield its [harvest].
 Righteousness goes be[fore him]* and prepares the way [for his steps].

All sing:(REFRAIN)

Cantor: Glory be to the Father and [to the Son]* and to the Holy [Spirit].
 As it was in the be[ginning]* is now, and will be forever. [Amen].

All sing:(REFRAIN)

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:

All: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments!”

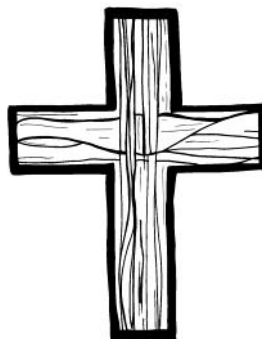
All: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord’s name I have not honored as I should; my worship and my prayers have faltered. I have not let his love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. My thoughts and desires have been soiled by sin. (*a brief pause for silence*)**

Pastor: Some of my sin I know—

All: **the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake he forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the †Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**



Hymn of Response: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

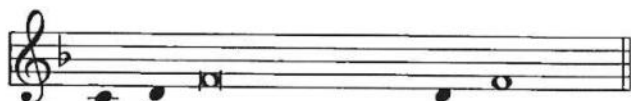


"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pcl - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!



Kyrie

Pastor:



▣ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All:



▣ Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor:



▣ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All:



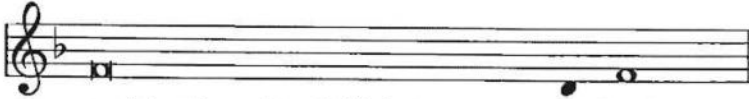
▣ Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor:



▣ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All:



▣ Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor:

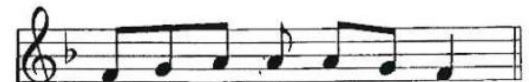


▣ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

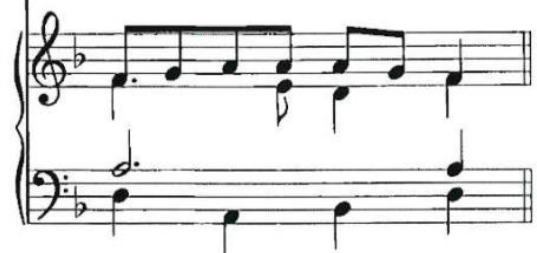


let us pray to the Lord.

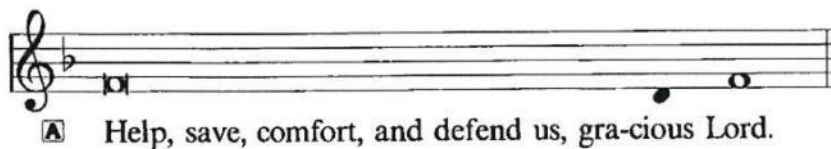
All:



▣ Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor:



All:

A - men

(The hymn of Praise is traditionally omitted during Advent as a symbol of our voluntary restraint during this season of preparation.

The Gloria will return on Christmas Eve.

In the meantime, we mark it's absence with a moment of intentional silence)

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son that at his second coming we may worship him in purity; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(You may be seated)

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11

Lector: A reading from the first book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector: The word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn of Response: "A Voice Cries Out In the Wilderness"

VERSE 1 *With strength* (♩ = ca. 168)

1. Con - sole my peo - ple, the ones dear to me; speak to the heart of Je -
ru - sa - lem: _____ the time of your mourn - ing is end - ed now, _____ the

REFRAIN

1. Lord of life will come. _____ A voice cries out in the

wil - der - ness: "Pre - pare a way for the Lord!" _____ A voice cries

out in the wil - der - ness: "Make straight a high - way for God!" _____

VERSES 2, 4

2. Ev - 'ry val - ley is made a plain, ev - 'ry
4. Zi - on, shout from the moun - tain top, lift up your

2. moun - tain is lev - eled; _____ the glo - ry of God _____ shall
4. voice, O Je - ru - sa - lem, _____ and say to the peo - ple of

2. then be re - vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise. _____
4. God's _____ own land, "Be - hold, be - hold your God!" _____

VERSES 3, 5

3. A voice _____ shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry? All flesh is like
5. The Lord will ap - pear as a shep - herd, _____ & hold - ing his

3. grass and its flow - ers: _____ the grass _____ may with - er, the
5. lambs in his arms, _____ & keep - ing his flock so

3. flow - ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. _____
5. close to his heart, & lead - ing them all, old and young. _____

The Epistle Drama: “Is It Time Yet?” *adapted from Gerald P. Coleman*

- Music Director:* Excuse me down there at the lecturn. Do you know what time it is?
- Lector:* Sure, it’s around 10:20 or so I think.
- Music Director:* Thanks. *(silence)*
- Music Director:* Excuse me again. Do you know when Pastor is planning to read the Gospel? I’ve been waiting and it’s taking forever...
- Lector:* Well, I’m pretty sure he’ll read it soon.
- Music Director:* Thanks. *(silence)*
- Music Director:* Look, I’m sorry to bother you again, but how can you stand there so calmly when this service is running so late? Aren’t you annoyed?
- Lector:* No, not really. I have plenty of time. By the way, how long do you think we’ve been waiting?
- Music Director:* I don’t know, it seems like it’s been about 3 minutes! And the longer I wait the angrier I get. Maybe I should just leave.
- Lector:* Well, you’ve waited this long, what’s your big hurry?
Where do you have to go?
- Music Director:* Nowhere, really... Hey, what are you doing standing up there anyway?
- Lector:* I’m supposed to be reading the Epistle for today.
- Music Director:* Oh really? What’s that about?
- Lector:* Well, listen to what it says:
- “But not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.
- Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
- So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him.”

Lector: What do you think of that?

Music Director: I think it's kind of weird. Doesn't it scare you?

Lector: No, not really. I used to think so before I became a Christian. But now I have a relationship with God, so I don't need to be worried.

Music Director: Really? How does a relationship with the Lord help you not worry?

Lector: I used to think a lot about it, and I was worried because I couldn't understand every single word of the bible. But now I realize that even though I don't have all the details about what will happen, I know the guy who wrote the book, and I know he loves me and will take care of me.

Music Director: So you are perfectly content to wait for God to do all the things he has promised to do?

Lector: You bet, I just wish I had gotten started sooner, waiting for God. Hey look, I think Pastor might be finally ready to read the Gospel.

Music Director: Well, it's about time! Hey, what time is it anyway?

Lector: It's time for the Gospel reading. And it's right on time. Pastor's sermon is worth waiting for wouldn't you say?

Music Director: I suppose so. Just like God!

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Pastor: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord According to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

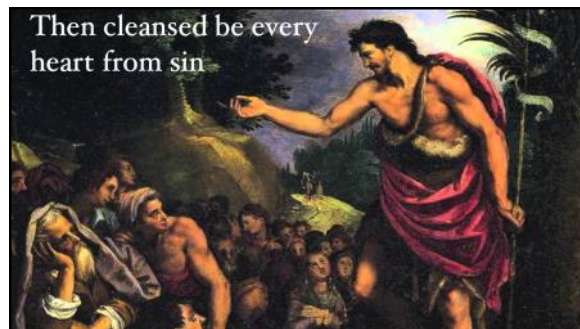
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of Response: "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
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
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.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.



(You may be seated)

Children's Sermon & Adult Sermon: Pastor Wilck

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs

Lord God, the eyes of all wait upon you and you give them their food at the proper time. Not so much as a single sparrow falls to the ground without your knowledge. For the sake of your faithful love to us in Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray.

(silence will be observed after each petition for personal prayer)

For the sick;

For the sorrowing;

For the lonely;

For the dying;

For the grief-stricken;

For the hungry;

For the homeless;

For the hopeless;

For victims of abuse;

For the oppressed;

For those who do not know you;

For those who serve you in far away lands;

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

Offering Hymn: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Preparation Hymn

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

All: **Amen.**

(Please stand)

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

All: **We lift up our hearts to the Lord.**

Pastor: See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation!

All: **It is fitting and proper to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: With angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify his holy name, praising him forever more.

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Pastor: Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him;

All: **all mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: **Hosanna in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**



The Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Invitation

Pastor: Come, taste and see how gracious the Lord is.

All: **Amen.**

Communion Hymn "Creator of the Stars of Night"

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,

last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle *Composed by Bob Newbury*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise!

7
tell eve-ry-ome what He has done, Let eve - ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud - ly

12
bear His name> He re-calls His pro-mis - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -

18
giv - ing A - le - lu - ia A - le - lu - ia!

Closing Dialogue

Pastor: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,

All: **you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.**

Pastor: He that testifies these things says, "I am coming soon."

All: **Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

Pastor: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

All: **Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

Pastor: All those who await his appearance pray:

All: **Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

Pastor: *The whole creation pleads:*

All: **Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

Blessing (*from center isle*)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

All: Amen.

Postlude

STAY
AWAKE