



2nd Sunday in Advent – December 5, 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to worship, especially our guests! We are delighted to have you with us. If you are looking for a church home, we are happy to share ours with you. If we haven't seen you in a while, it is great to see you today! May God bless your time with us richly.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing you praise. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD, P. 38

OPENING HYMN – 11 Comfort, Comfort All My People

- 1 "Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace," so says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."
- 2 All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
- 4 Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Malachi 3:1-4

Look! I am sending my messenger. He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

² But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³ He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴ Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

Psalm 24, p. 73

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*
Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON – *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY – *Luke 3:4,6*

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe the Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON – *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.
⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
“And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY – 16 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1–3, alt.; composite, st. 4–5.

SERMON: Prepare the Way!

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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.

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

HYMN – 13 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!
- 2 O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;
- 3 But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – 131 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

- 1 All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel And David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, Our King and blessed one.
- 2 All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels Is praising you on high,
And we with all creation In chorus make reply.
- 3 All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews With palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems Before you we present.
- 4 All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
To you before your passion They sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.
- 5 All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
As you received their praises, Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, Our good and gracious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 762–821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Thank you for worshiping with us!
God bless your week.

This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ		
Today	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday School Worship Call Meeting
Wednesday	4:00 PM 6:30 PM	Catechism Small Group Bible Class
Sunday 12/12 –Food Pantry	9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class Worship with Communion

Pastoral Call Meeting

The Lord has led Pastor Jonathan Loescher to return the call to be our pastor. The next call meeting has been scheduled for **today 11:30 AM**. All members are encouraged to attend.

Altar Flowers Thank you to Judy Anklaam for sharing flowers from Dave's funeral. Blessed be his memory.

Memorials We are grateful for gifts given in memory of:

David Anklaam – Audrey Jones, Mark & Beth Krohn, Rick & Karen Leopold, Bill & Sue Unruh

Gordon Schubring – Juanita Landwehr & family, Rick & Karen Leopold, Elaine Radtke

Violette Clark – Mark & Beth Krohn, Elaine Radtke

Rev. Russel Kobs – Suzanne Durkee, Elaine Radtke

Jeanette Mathwich – Robert & Janice Gresens, Audrey Jones, Mark & Beth Krohn

Blessed be their memories. Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.

Revelation Bible Study Begins 12/12 The Book of Revelation will be the topic of our next Bible Study series beginning Sunday, Dec. 12. The series is authored by a WELS pastor and includes video, book and study sheet format.

Ladies' Aid Christmas Luncheon You are invited to join our Ladies' Aid members on Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 at 2510 Restaurant. Please call Kathy Stubbe (298-4446) or Janice Gresens (845-7548) to RSVP.

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

Come join us for our OWLS Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 14th at 12 noon at Our Saviors. Cost will be \$12 per person. This luncheon is open to anyone who wants to come, not just OWLS members. So we know how many to plan for, please contact Ruth at (715)-573-2142 by Friday December 10th to reserve your spot. Hope to see you there.

In the Narthex:

- December issues of Forward in Christ, Meditations
- Advent devotions
- 2022 God's Creation Calendars
- RADA orders!

New Hymnal Update The organ accompaniment books have finally arrived. We'll start using our new hymnals in January (Epiphany).

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: November 28, 2021

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>Plate</u>
\$4,485.00	\$445.00	\$660.00	\$516.00	\$120.00
<u>Memorial</u>	<u>OSSchool</u>	<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>Roof</u>	<u>Bldg Maint</u>
\$30.00	\$50.00	\$270.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
<u>Publications</u>	<u>Calendars</u>	<u>Poinsettias</u>	<u>Christmas Family</u>	
\$38.00	\$41.00	\$21.00	\$405.00	

Attendance: Worship – 72, Online worship – 16 Total = 88

Christmas Wishes

As in past years, Our Savior's has adopted a family through the Women's Community "Christmas Wishes" program. The Women's Community serves victims of abuse. We have been assigned a young family of six who have very basic clothing needs (shoes, socks, underwear, pajamas, gloves, sweatshirts). The children also have simple toy, art and book wishes. While we don't have to buy everything on the list, it would be nice to gift them with necessities plus a few fun items.

Please consider giving in the freewill offering basket in the narthex. Thank you.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*



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