



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 11, 2022



## Third Sunday in Advent

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent as we use our time in the Lord's house to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In our service today we continue our special theme for this first season of the Church Year: ***Be Born in Us Today***. Today's worship order, hymns, prayers, and Scripture readings emphasize how the Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth at Christmas - and his birth in our hearts daily (we call that "faith") - restores our strength so that we might serve him with our lives. May the Lord bless your worship and renew and refresh your spirit within you!

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Lord Jesus, you know my struggles and how often I feel weary and burdened by sin, guilt, and the problems of living in this broken world. Just as you were born once in Bethlehem's manger, so may you be born anew in my heart through faith and your Holy Spirit. Renew my spirit with your free forgiveness and the assurance of your abiding presence so that I might faithfully serve you until your final advent to take me and all believers to our eternal home in heaven.

## **OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE**

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we express unity with our Savior and those who share our faith and stand on the teachings of God's Word. Therefore, we invite to our altar those who are members of Our Savior's or members of the WELS/ELS. Visitors who wish to commune are asked to speak to the pastor before the service begins.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

- Minister – Pastor Jeff Mahnke
- Organist – Marie Kurth
- Ushers – Tim & Ellen Heil  
*(Next Sunday – Phil Brost, Travis Kurth)*

## **Acknowledgments**

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# Our Worship Focus:

## *Bringing Renewal*

### Opening Hymn

CW 316

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
(Stand for v. 5)

- 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;  
O 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: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749  
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In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

We see the second candle on the Advent wreath lit to celebrate the renewal of our lives through faith in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul writes, We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, in order that, just as he was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

**Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born among us to bring us new life.**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

**Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Renew our hearts and minds in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might love and serve you by loving and serving others.**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, we confess to you that we do not always live in the newness of life that is ours in Jesus. We fall back into our selfish ways. We do not love others as we should. Instead of following your will, we seek to conform our lives to the world's temptations. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew and restore us.**

God had mercy on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins upon himself and suffered and died on the cross to pay for them. Therefore, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen! Help us, Lord, to live in newness of life. Lead us to seek your will so that we might do what is good, acceptable and perfect in your sight.**

## **Song of Praise**

CW 333 st. 4

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

## The Word

### First Reading

**Isaiah 40:21–31**

*God gives his people strength*

<sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood it from the founding of the earth? <sup>22</sup>He is the one who sits above the circle of the earth. To him its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and he spreads them out like a tent to live in. <sup>23</sup>He is the one who reduces dignitaries to nothing. He makes the judges of the world useless. <sup>24</sup>They have hardly been planted. They have hardly been sown. Their stem has hardly taken root in the earth. Then he blows on them, and they dry up. A driving storm carries them away like chaff.

<sup>25</sup>To whom can you compare me as if we were equals? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and see who created these things. See who brings out their army in great number and calls them all by name. Because of his great strength and mighty power, not one of them is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you speak, O Jacob? O Israel, why do you say, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and justice for me is ignored by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God. He is the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired, and he will not become weary. No one can find a limit to his understanding. <sup>29</sup>He is the one who gives strength to the weak, and he increases the strength of those who lack power. <sup>30</sup>Young men grow tired and become weary. Even strong men stumble and fall. <sup>31</sup>But those who wait for the LORD will receive new strength. They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles. They will run and not become weary. They will walk and not become tired.

# The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

Psalm 103A

## Refrain

The LORD is kind and mer-ci-ful,  
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

## Tone

Praise the LORD, / my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—  
who forgives / all your sins  
and heals all your dis- / eases,  
who redeems your life / from the pit  
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,  
who satisfies your desires / with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,  
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.  
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve  
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.  
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,  
so great is his love for those who / fear him;  
as far as the east is / from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.  
**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. *Refrain***

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## Second Reading

**Ephesians 1:7–10**

*God lavishes the riches of his grace upon his people*

<sup>7</sup>In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. <sup>9</sup>He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. <sup>10</sup>This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 11:28*



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Come to me, all you who are weary and bur - dened, and I will give you rest.

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## Gospel

**Matthew 1:18–25**

*The birth of Jesus to bring renewal and life*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”  
<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day

**CW 302**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
  
- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal King!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
  
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!  
Your King, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before him! All nations, now adore him!  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
  
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847

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***Lord, raise us up on eagle's wings!***

1. No matter what is going on, you know your children by name
2. You are an awesome God – like none other
3. Those who hope in you renew their strength and soar through life to heaven

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Thank Offering & Friendship Register

*As the offering is gathered, we ask both members and visitors to sign the Friendship Registers, which are located at the end of the pews. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.*

## Prayer of the Church

Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering through illness or enduring grief and loss. Renew and strengthen them in faith through the promises of your holy Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**Be born in us today. Lead us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to serve one another in love and to bring comfort and hope to those in need.**

Lord and Savior, in Baptism we were united to you in your death, buried with you and raised to new life. Through faith in your name, we have forgiveness for our sins and the certain hope of eternal life in heaven. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**Be born in us today. Conform our hearts and minds to your will so that by our thoughts, words and actions we glorify your holy name.**

Lord and Savior, you are ever watchful and caring, and you are present with us at all times. When we grow faint and weary in faith, forgive us, and renew us according to the faith-building promises of your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**Be born in us today. Refresh us through your forgiveness and strengthen our faith so that we might serve others in love.**

Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

**Amen.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*(Sung to the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain, all the glory of Your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh,  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due, be forever, Lord, to You!**

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out 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.

**Amen.**

## Song Response *(Sung to the tune of Oh Come, All Ye Faithful)*

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, in Thy holy Supper;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

## Distribution Hymn

**CW 312**

*Comfort, Comfort All My People*

*Stand*

## Blessing

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

**They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.** (Isaiah 40:30-31)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**And also with you. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

**Old CW 440**  
*On Eagle's Wings*

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in his shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!"  
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.
  
- 2 Snares of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under his wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield.  
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.
  
- 3 For to his angels he's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

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

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**Advent Devotions** – “Word Made Flesh: The Historical Reality of Christmas” is a free series of Advent devotions, a gift to you from Martin Luther College, the WELS College of Ministry. Pick up a copy today in the narthex or the office entry.

**Serving the Pastoral Vacancy** - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior’s vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is [pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org).

**Christmas Invitations** – Invitations will be handed out after our worship service today for you to invite friends, relatives, associates at work and neighbors to join you to worship the Christ Child.

### *Holiday Worship Schedule*

Sunday, Dec. 18	Children’s Christmas Service - 9:00 AM
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship: Service of Lessons & Carols at 6:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship - 9:00 AM
Sunday, Jan. 1	Sunday Worship - 9:00 AM

*No Sunday School or Bible Class on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.*

**“The Greatest Gift” Live Outdoor Nativity** - A live outdoor nativity will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, 5-8:30 p.m., at Northland Lutheran High School, 2107 Tower Road, Kronenwetter. This is a free outreach event with no registration required. It involves a 20-minute walk through the woods stopping at stations to hear the true Christmas story from actors and carolers. Please bring an unchurched friend to learn about “The Greatest Gift.” If you wish to have a reserved time for you and your guest(s), please visit [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org) to link to the reservation page.

## This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class
<b>Monday</b>	4:00 PM	OSS Basketball at Trinity, Wausau
<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30 AM	OWLS Christmas Luncheon
<b>Friday</b>	4:30 PM	OSS Basketball at Faith Christian
<b>Saturday</b>	5:00-8:30 PM	Outdoor Nativity at NLHS
<b>Sunday 12/18</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 3:00 PM	Children's Christmas Service Sunday School & Bible Class NLHS Christmas Concert

## Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: December 4, 2022

<u>Weekly</u> \$4,023.00	<u>Vision</u> \$170.00	<u>Debt Reduction</u> \$100.00	<u>Thanksgiving</u> \$115.00	<u>Advent</u> \$120.00
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<u>Plate</u> \$6.66	<u>Chr Gifts/Bags</u> \$310.00	<u>School Fees</u> \$248.00
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**Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038**

**Attendance:** Sunday, Dec. 4      73 + 34 (online) = 107

**2023 Offering Envelopes** – Offering envelopes are ready for you to pick up today in the narthex. Please do not use your 2023 envelopes until January 1<sup>st</sup> as your number may have changed from last year.



*Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love*

**Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church**

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: [OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org)

Website: [www.oursaviorswausau.org](http://www.oursaviorswausau.org)

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

**Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor**

715-297-0132

[pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org)

