



OUR SAVIOR'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS IN YOUR MIDST, A
MIGHTY
ONE
WHO WILL SAVE ...**

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, ESV



THEME OF THE DAY

The Christmas season can be difficult. The pressure to have “a perfect Christmas” can be overwhelming. Loneliness is often amplified. What we all need is a real Christmas, one that results in great joy. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. “Holiday cheer” is fleeting and often empty, but joyfulness is enduring. Today we hear the call to “Rejoice!”

Which might seem odd when we get to the Gospel reading for today where John talks about “the coming wrath” which will include “unquenchable fire.” If that is what Christ will bring at his second coming, how can we possibly live joyfully?

Answer: because of Christ’s first coming! When Jesus came that first Christmas, it wasn’t to bring judgment, but to bear judgment. Jesus was born, not to punish sin, but to be punished for sin. All those with faith in Christ know that when he comes for the second time, it will be to deliver us, not destroy us. He will not increase our pain but take every pain away. Then, and not a moment before, our lives will finally be perfect! And so, we live joyfully and thankfully, looking forward to Christ’s return.

SERVING TODAY

- Minister – Pastor Fred Berger
 - Organist – Marie Kurth
 - Ushers – Mark Krohn, Kurt Schubring
- Next week – Tim & Ellen Heil*

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Words of Welcome

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We all are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

P However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325 st. 1



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711841

P When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt. Your sins are forgiven.

C This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

P This is *love*: not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325 st. 2



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;



our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us



whole, be com-fort to our hearts.

- P With the love of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors.
- C **We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.**
- P We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
- C **Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325 st. 3



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,



and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -



born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.

Prayer of the Day

P Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325 st. 4



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



us the path-way of your peace.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

The Word

First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-17

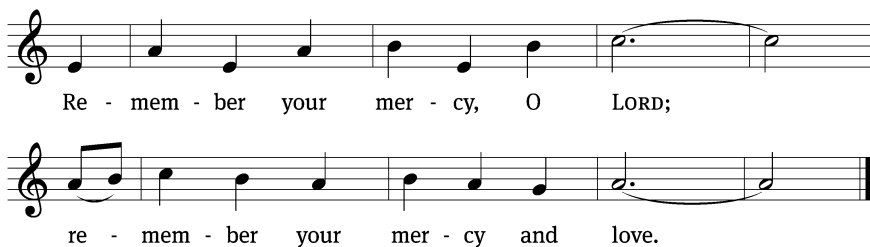
We can rejoice because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

Remember Your Mercy, O LORD

Psalm 130B

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, /
serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,

and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,

more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

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*

Tune: Michael Joncas Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Stand

The Verse of the Day

Mark 1:4,5

Alleluia. ⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance. This will serve as our sermon text.

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

CW 316

- 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
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 3:7-18

Pastor John's Faithful Preaching Prepares Us

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.

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless...] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 330

- 1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
when angels clove the sky with song and light
and God embodied love and sheathed his might—
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!

- 2 And who could be the same for having held
the infant in their arms and later felt
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!

- 3 You show the Father none has ever seen,
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
in bread and wine you visit us again—
Who could but see: Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!
- 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise: Immanuel!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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*Thank you for worshiping with us.
May your week be richly blessed!*

Sincere Thanks

Thank you to Pastor Fred Berger for leading our worship service and Bible class this morning. Pastor Berger serves the Kronenwetter mission.

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.

Pastor Mahnke has received a Divine Call from Christ Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, WI to serve as the outreach pastor. May the Lord bless his deliberations and the ministries of the congregations.

Pastoral Call News

On Monday evening, our voters issued a Divine Call to Pastor James Backus, who currently serves at St. Mark in Watertown, WI. Please keep Pastor Backus, his family, his current ministry as well as our ministry in your prayers as he deliberates where he can best serve our Lord. We encourage you to reach out to him:

email pastor.backus@smlcwatertown.com or call/text 517-920-1564.



Ladies' Aid & OWLS Invite You!

The Ladies Aid Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 5 at 11:30 at 2510 Restaurant. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to come. Please RSVP to Karen Leopold by December 3 (715-845-8096).

The OWLS (*Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors*) Christmas Luncheon will be at Our Savior's on December 10th at 11:30. The cost will be \$12 again and reservations are needed. The meal will be chicken, potatoes, vegetable, rolls, salads and, most important, desserts. Guests are certainly welcome! RSVP or questions to Evan or Sandy Dobberfuhl, 715-693-1337.

Advent Devotions: Glory in His Grasp

"Glory in His Grasp" booklet is produced by Martin Luther College and is available for you to pick up in the narthex. Devotions begin TODAY.

Special Envelopes – It has been our tradition to provide special envelopes at Christmastime for those who wish to contribute toward Christmas bags for our children and gifts for our called workers and staff. Specially marked envelopes are in the narthex next to the newsletters.

The Christmas Journey: Sign up now to attend

Attend the Live Outdoor Nativity Event at Northland Lutheran High School, 2107 Tower Road Kronenwetter, on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Scan the QR Code and choose the time slot for your group. There will be a guided 30-minute walk around the NLHS Campus as the Christmas Story is told through Scripture, dialogue, hymns and carols. Campfires throughout the path will warm you. Please leave your pets at home. Thank you. Questions? Contact: Brenda Kruncos 715.571.4420 or brenda@mistylane.org.



This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
Thursday	11:30 AM	Ladies' Aid Christmas Lunch at 2510
Friday	7:00 PM	A Christmas Carol Radio Play at NLHS
Saturday	7:00 PM	A Christmas Carol Radio Play at NLHS
Sunday 12/8	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>

Growing Together

November 24, 2024

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Thanksgiving</u>
\$1,710.00	\$30.00	\$65.00	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$127.00

Publications
\$16.00

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,230

Attendance: Sunday, November 24 – 65
Thanksgiving, Nov. 27 – 37



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