

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Mankato, Minnesota**

**The Second Sunday in Advent  
December 10, 2023**

***At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.***

**Monthly Memory Verse:**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
John 1:14

**Weekly Discussion Question:**

God showed Himself visually. What do we gain from that?

**Confession and Absolution**

**Opening Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”**

**LSB 347**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,<br/>Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;<br/>“Comfort those who sit in darkness,<br/>Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.<br/>Speak ye to Jerusalem<br/>Of the peace that waits for them;<br/>Tell her that her sins I cover<br/>And her warfare now is over.”</p> <p>2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,<br/>Blotting out each dark misdeed;<br/>All that well deserved His anger<br/>He no more will see or heed.<br/>She hath suffered many_a day,<br/>Now her griefs have passed away;<br/>God will change her pining sadness<br/>Into ever-springing gladness.</p> | <p>3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying<br/>In the desert far and near,<br/>Calling sinners to repentance,<br/>Since the Kingdom now is here.<br/>O that warning cry obey!<br/>Now prepare for God a way;<br/>Let the valleys rise to meet Him<br/>And the hills bow down to greet Him.</p> <p>4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;<br/>Make the rougher places plain.<br/>Let your hearts be true and humble,<br/>As befits His holy reign.<br/>For the glory of the Lord<br/>Now o’er earth is shed abroad,<br/>And all flesh shall see the token<br/>That His Word is never broken.</p> |
|---|---|

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

*LSB 204*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

- P** Let us pray.  
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

- <sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.  
<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."  
<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"  
<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 85*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.  
<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.  
<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!  
<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?  
<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?  
<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.  
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.  
<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.  
<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

- C** 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.

## Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem: “Once in Royal David’s City”

Handbell Choir

## Alleluia and Verse



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

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.



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

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.  
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

## Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

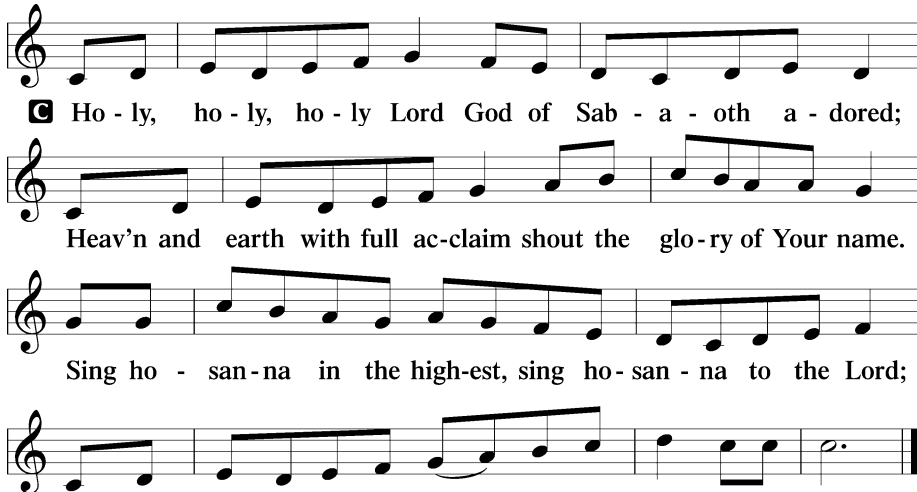
## Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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 Words of Our Lord



## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Distribution Hymns:

### “Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

2 God His own doth tend and  
nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares  
them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell

Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958  
Text: Public domain

## “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

LSB 594

- 1 God’s own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth’s treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation,  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I’ve traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!

- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing  
To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
Even there I’ll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I’m a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957

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## “I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

LSB 719

- 1 I leave all things to God’s direction;  
He loves me both in joy and woe.  
His will is good, sure His affection;  
His tender love is true, I know.  
My fortress and my rock is He:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;  
His love for me will never cease.  
Upon His hands He did engrave me  
With purest gold of loving grace.  
His will supreme must ever be:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul’s salvation;  
My soul He, too, desires to save.  
Therefore with Christian resignation  
All earthly troubles I will brave.  
His will be done eternally:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;  
He is the ever faithful friend.  
He gives me laughter after weeping,  
And all His ways in blessings end.  
His love endures eternally:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn: “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets’ heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram’s promised great reward,  
Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.

4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.

5 Bruise for me the serpent’s head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth,  
1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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