

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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December 13, 2020

Show Us Your Grace So We May Serve Our  
Neighbors In Need.

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

## **Gathering**

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **OPENING**

L Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.

**C give thanks in all circumstances.**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3**

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

#### **ADVENT SONG**

#### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway

for the King of glory.

#### **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Loving and forgiving God,

**C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

## **GATHERING SONG**

## **My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness**

**ELW 251**

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

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## **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

**C Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**L: Word of God, Word of Life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: 126

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**L: Word of God, Word of Life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**He Came Down**

**ELW 253**

He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with

water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## MESSAGE

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**People Look East**

**ELW 248**

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (see end of bulletin)

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## Meal

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God,

**C you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.**

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG**

#### **Hark, the Glad Sound**

**ELW 239**

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

#### **DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. (*A brief silence.*)

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. We pray for all on our prayer list and for those we name before you now in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"**

<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Carol Braun	<a href="mailto:osl@cheqnet.net">osl@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Evelyn Pamer	<a href="mailto:oslsec@cheqnet.net">oslsec@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Musicians</b>	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt	
<b>Lector</b>	Tammy Sipsas	
<b>Recording Technician</b>	Dick Rewalt	



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### STAFF

Pastor Carol Braun  
Linda Hultman, Keyboard  
Patty Lehman, Keyboard  
Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

# December '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
13 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	14 10:00 WELCA Bible Study  1:00 Grief Support Group  7:00 Al-Anon	15 Office Closed  9:00 TOPS	16  9:30 Bible Study	17	18	19  Food Shelf
20 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	21  7:00 Al-Anon	22 Office Closed  9:00 TOPS	23  9:30 Bible Study	<p><b><u>Pastor Carol's Days</u></b> Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays</p> <p><b><u>Secretary's Hours</u></b> Mon, Wed, Thur. &amp; Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</p>		

**Next Week's Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:14b-55, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38**

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website (ironriverlutherans.org) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections.  
Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



Ellen Wagner, Willard Ogren, Guyann Lundeen, Ray Kangas, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*

**Check your email and your mailboxes. The 2021 proposed budget letter and information has been sent out. Please return your vote by Monday, December 28, 2020. If you did not receive a letter, please let Evelyn know.**



**WELCA Bible Study** Women's Bible Study will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Grief Support Group, Monday December 14**

This group will be meeting on Monday, December 14, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at church in the fellowship hall. All are welcome, no matter what type of grief or feeling of loss you may be experiencing, to come join in the conversation. We are practicing safe distancing and mask wearing. Please share this information with anyone you feel may be suffering loss.

**Thank you, Himma Santikko, for creating the wreath greens for Advent.**

**December Mission of the month**

**\* Hurricane Eta relief for Honduras.**



**The boxes of cards that WELCA has for sale has been replenished. If you would like to stop by the church and purchase boxes or single cards, they are available.**

**Connections with Creation**

Springtime shoots and sprouting gardens are a long way off for the North American households approaching winter. Yet this morning's text from Isaiah envisions righteousness growing among the faithful like earth's plants springing forth. Even now, under the cover of snow or frozen soil for some of us, seeds await the return of longer days and warm sun. Christians have long looked to the rhythms of the seasons to reflect on what God is doing among the community of believers. As winter darkness intensifies, let us quiet our minds and rest our spirits as the earth itself rests. A great ordeal, a new and amazing birth, is about to occur. For now, creation waits. Take a walk in the cold, dark, quiet days to center on the miracle to come. Given time, the tiny shoot can grow into a righteous oak.

**Advent begins Sunday, November 29-Happy New Church Year!**

On Sunday Nov. 29, we begin the new year in the church calendar. Advent brings us the season of waiting as we go from darkness to light. We celebrate this Advent season over the next four weeks and in our worship service on those Sundays that come before Christmas Eve when we celebrate the Light of the World with the birth of the Christ Child.

Pastor Carol will be sharing these themes over these four weeks:

- Nov. 29- Jesus calls on us to be awake and ready.
- Dec. 6- We ask God to kindle us with the Holy Spirit to be light shining in the darkness.
- Dec. 13- We ask to be shown God's grace so that we may serve our neighbors in need.
- Dec. 20- We ask that our eyes may be open so that we may see God's presence.

We will celebrate with the Lighting of the Advent wreath each week with prayer and anticipation for the one who is to come.

**Are you leaving for warmer climates?** Please make sure to Evelyn know if you are heading to your winter homes for the season. Evelyn and Pastor Carol cannot stress enough how important it is to have your correct contact information! Please keep us updated.

Thank you!!