**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 11, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**

**8607 S. Narragansett Ave.**

**Burbank, Illinois**

**708-599-4780**

[**www.oursaviorschurch.org**](http://www.oursaviorschurch.org)

Welcome to worship at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Thank you for worshiping with us. Please wear a name tag and introduce yourself to those sitting near you.

*Prelude*

***Gathering\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

*Please take a moment to share a wave, a nod or a sign of peace with those around you. The congregation remains standing.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God’s name forever.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one

who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.** **Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**

♫***Gathering Hymn Prepare the Way of the Lord***

*(song leaders first time; everyone on repeat)*

**Prepare the way of the Lord; tell everybody about him.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord; tell everybody he’s coming.**

**Shout for joy Jerusalem.**

**Shout for joy you nations of God.**

**Jesus is coming to save the world.**

**Prepare him a place in your heart.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

**(Repeat)**

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***

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **c Amen**

*The congregation is seated*

***Word\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**A reading from Isaiah**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Advent Wreath**

*One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath every day.*

♫ ***We Are Making the Journey***

**We are making the journey toward the light.**

**We are leaving behind the darkness inside.**

**So come, Emmanuel, come to us.**

**May your love be poured out upon us,**

**So the hurt in our hearts may be stilled,**

**So the hurt in our hearts may be stilled.**

**Third Week of Advent**

*Blessing when lighting three candles. We encourage you to save this prayer and light three advent candles in your home every day this week.*

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

**let us travel on God’s holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

***♫*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu--jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu--jah!**

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu--jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!**

**The Holy Gospel According to Matthew the 11th Chapter**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God’s judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus’ response indicates that God’s reign in indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord

**c Praise to you, O Christ**

**♫ Come and save us Jesus, Emmanuel**

**Light into the darkness, upon us shine.**

**Wisdom, hope and blessings, God with us now.**

**Come and save us, Emmanuel.**

**Come and save us, Emmanuel.**

*the congregation is seated*

**☺**Children’s Message

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

**♫Hymn of the Day *Jesus Messiah***

**Jesus, Messiah, Name above all names,**

**Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel,**

**The rescue for sinners,**

**The ransom from heaven,**

**Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**(repeat)**

**Jesus, Messiah, Name above all names,**

**Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel,**

**The rescue for sinners,**

**The ransom from heaven,**

**Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

Let us stand and confess our faith together.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,** **the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,** **the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,** **and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers of The Church**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*(The congregation may be seated for prayer)*

*God, in your mercy,*

***Hear our prayer.***

***INVITATION TO GENEROSITY***

*After the offering has been collected the assembly stands*

Let us pray together:

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts: bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Meal***

The Lord be with you.



**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE***

***♫Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God***

*(Song leaders will sing this response through once followed by the congregation joining in the second time)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God.**

**God of might and power; Holy is the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God,**

**God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth…**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER***

***LORD'S PRAYER***

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and hear us as we pray:

**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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

***♫O Lamb of God***

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world;**

**Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

*please be seated*

*We invite all who trust in Jesus for their life’s journey to share in Holy Communion. To receive communion come down the center aisle and fill in around the communion table as room opens up.  When taking the cup of wine please be careful to only touch one cup.  After receiving communion return via the outside aisle leaving your used cup in the baskets by the first row of pews.*

**RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*the congregation stands*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **c Amen**

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,

bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,

sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Sending***

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

♫ ***Sending Hymn Rock of the Ages***

**Rock of the Ages, beginning and end,**

**Light of salvation, my very best friend,**

**Bright Morning Star, Saviour and soon coming King,**

**He’s the Lord!**

**Alpha Omega the first and the last,**

**Lord of creation, my future and past,**

**Bright Morning Star, Saviour and soon coming King,**

**He’s the Lord.**

**Lamb of God seated on the throne, He is the Lord.**

**Son of God, Son of man, He’s the Lord. He’s the King.**

**Hear the angels sing.**

**Rock of the Ages, beginning and end,**

**Light of salvation, my very best friend,**

**Bright Morning Star, Saviour and soon coming King,**

**He’s the Lord!**

**Bright Morning star, Saviour and soon coming King,**

**He’s the Lord.**

**Bright Morning Star, Saviour and soon coming King.**

**He’s the Lord.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**Thank you to today’s Worship Team**

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Carole Willer

Assisting Minister– John Schroder

Advent Candle Lighters– Lyle and Carol Kane

Song Leaders 10:00: The Celebration Band

Audio/visual team – Eli Morales, Gloria Diaz, Pamela Fiore, Jenna Haase, David Henderson, Tony Morales, Greg Nowicki, Veronica Troglia

Organ/keyboard: Lori Mackie-Hewelt