

HYMN #106—"ON JORDAN'S BANK THE HERALD'S CRY"

In times of difficulty and tragedy we may hear these blessed words: "On Jordan's bank the herald's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh." With John the Baptist's pointing hand, we may see our Lord coming, and we may call to him in the words of the hymn, particularly verse four: "To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand And bid the fallen sinner stand"; and also verse three: "For Thou art our Salvation, Lord, Our Refuge and our great Reward"! The Word of God speaks particularly to those who suffer, as we together in song call out for one another's benefit the comfort that only Christ Jesus can give.

The Church Year has different rhythms. John the Baptist is a central character during the four-week season of Advent as he comes with his preaching of repentance. He signals the season's penitential character, and prepares the Church for a time of joy: for some, Christmas; for all Christians, Christ's return. Certainly one result of suffering all around us is the encouragement to repent: "What shall we do?" many wonder. Our hymn provides the way in the second verse: "Then cleansed be ev'ry Christian breast, And furnished for so great a Guest; Yea, let us each our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there."

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Having trouble hearing our service? Ask our ushers for one of our personal hearing devices.



Parking for our services is available in our adjacent lot, on both sides of the street, and in our gravel lot across the street.



Restrooms are located near the back steps in the church basement. The restroom on the left contains a changing table.



Our lift stops at sanctuary, street, and basement levels. Ask one of our ushers if you need help operating our lift.

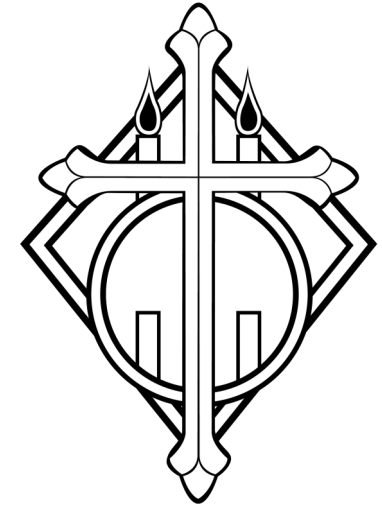
Welcome to our Honored Guests!

We hope you are nourished by our service today and we invite you to join us again to hear of the peace we have in Jesus' name and to share in our Christian fellowship.

Please sign our guest registry so we have a record of your visit, and let us know if you would like to speak with our pastor to learn more about our congregation or the Bible's teachings.

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THE OFFICE OF VESPERS Evening Service

December 12th

2:00 pm.

& 7:00 p.m.



OUR SAVIOR'S is a member of the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod* (ELS), a national church body headquartered in Mankato, MN. As a member of the ELS, we confess that we are saved by *Grace Alone* (Eph. 2:8) through *Faith Alone* (Acts 16:31) revealed in *Scripture Alone* (John 5:24). Though we are totally sinful from birth, Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross and gives us eternal life in heaven. We subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions (Book of Concord, 1580) because they are a faithful and accurate summary of the Bible's teachings.

The ELS has been in fellowship with the *Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod* (WELS) since 1872.



Today in the Christian Church Year: *Advent 1, Wednesday*

Spiritual Focus: *Longing for the Bridegroom*

Preacher: Rev. Michael Lilienthal

Accompanist:
2PM—Betty Knutson
7PM—Arline Walker

AS YOU PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WORSHIP in the quiet moments before we receive the service of our almighty and merciful God, turn to p. 40 in the front part of the *Hymnary*, and pray quietly to yourself or as a family the **PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP** and **IN REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**. You may also turn to p. 167ff. and pray the **EVENING PRAYER** and the prayer for **WEDNESDAY EVENING**.

Whenever you see this symbol: ✠ you may make the sign of the cross over yourself. By this simple act, remember your Baptism, and how you were covered in the image of Christ, because your sins were laid on his cross, so that you may have his holiness and life.

The following service is reprinted from *ELH* pp. 120ff.

Vespers, like Matins, is an ancient hourly service, one which Luther loved and practiced daily in his church. One can compare these services and the Holy Communion Service on Sundays to the sun and the planets: the Holy Communion is the sun around which the daily prayers (Matins & Vespers) revolve. The daily prayers prepare for the Holy Communion and carry the meaning of the particular Sunday into the rest of the week.

1 John 1:9 ~ "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalm 51:15

As the pastor approaches the altar, please rise for the Confession of Sin.

1. *The Confession of Sin*

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

C: **Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

P: The Almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. *A Hymn: #108 | "Creator of the Starry Height"*

3. *The Versicles*

P: O Lord, open my lips.



C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

15. *The Benedicamus*

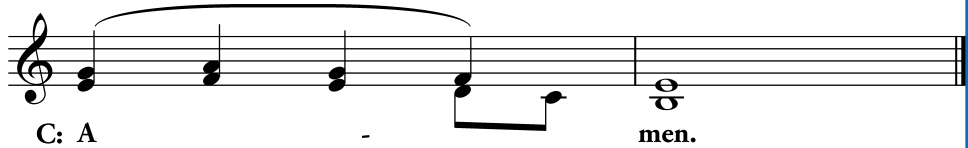
P: Let us bless the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

16. *The Benediction*

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



C: A - - - - - men.

A Hymn: #106 | "On Jordan's Bank the Herald's Cry"



AFTER THE DIVINE SERVICE, turn to p. 40 in the front part of the *Hymnary*, and pray quietly to yourself or as a family the prayer **AT THE END OF DIVINE SERVICE**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Family Devotion Booklets are available in the narthex. Please take one home to continue your devotion to God's Word in your home. You can also find digital copies available on our website, at oursaviorsels.com/devotions.

The Ladies' Aid pot-luck will be tomorrow at noon. They would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship and meal at that event here in Luther Hall.

Next Wednesday: at 2:00 p.m. we will have a normal Advent Vespers service; at 7:00 p.m. we will worship with a special Advent Darkness-to-Light service.

We will go a-caroling! Sunday, December 23rd, at 3:30 p.m. we will gather at Our Savior's to go out and sing Christmas carols to our shut-in members. After singing, we will return to church for pizza. Come along, even if you don't think you have a great singing voice, because these members love hearing us share the love of our Lord in hymns. (And the Vikings game should be done by the time we start!)

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Services!

- Monday, December 24* 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Vespers
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program
- Tuesday, December 25* 9:00 a.m. Christmas Dawn Service
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Day Service

We hope you can attend and join us in Christmas joy!

Psalm 41:13

1 Corinthians 15:57 ~ "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 13:14

In the Benediction, the Pastor clothes us with the name of our Triune God, just as we were clothed with that name in Baptism, marking us as holy children—and so we are: holy children of God. He sees us that way, and therefore it is true.

14. The Collects

The Collect is a brief prayer that "collects" in one short petition all that we are asking God to do for us, based on the specific section of his Word which is preached on that day.

We pray a penitential Collect for the season of Advent, an evening Collect for the time of day, and conclude with the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent, because we are in the week following that Sunday.

P: Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, for whose sudden coming to Judgment Your Church looks and waits, come now to us in Your quickening love, and plant Your holy fear and love within our hearts. Establish us in Your truth and righteousness, endue us with such boldness to confess You before men, that You may at the Last Day confess us before Your Father and all the elect and angels in heaven; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

C: A - men.

P: Stir up, we beseech You, Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and be saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

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P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the

Ho - ly Ghost As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er

shall be: for - ev - er - more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

4. The Psalmody: Psalm 72 | p. 182-3 (Tone 2)

Odd verses: Pastor | **Even verses: Congregation** | "Glory be to the Father...": All
Hymn #100:3, 4 | "They will not blush to own us"

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth:

sing praises with a psalm!

~Psalm 47:6, 7 (ESV)

Psalm 70:1

Romans 16:17
Ephesians 3:21
Philippians 4:20
Revelation 1:6

Ecclesiastes 1:9, 3:14-15

Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6

Ps. 72—The psalmist realizes that even the best of the Davidic kings fell short of the ideal. So we also often fail to live as we should. Yet our hope is in David's Son and Lord, Jesus Christ, who has brought us eternal salvation.

ELH #100:3, 4—By virtue of our Bridegroom's election of us, we are brothers and sisters of all the saints and patriarchs and martyrs, and with them, we are welcome to join in the heavenly feast where we are treated as royalty. Married to the Bridegroom, we have his riches.

5. The Lection

Like Solomon, our Lord spares no expense preparing for the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom. In fact, with something more precious than gold and silver, with his holy precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death, he has readied the feast!

Psalm 123:3

Romans 7:25

⁶What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant?
⁷Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel,
⁸all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

Song of Songs 3:6-11 (ESV)

⁹King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon.
¹⁰He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem.
¹¹Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon, with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart.

“One thing is needful, namely, that Mary sit at the feet of Christ and hear His Word daily. This is the best ‘portion’ which we are to choose, and which will never pass away. It is an eternal Word. All else will perish, no matter how much cause for work it gives Martha. God help us to choose it. Amen.”

~Martin Luther, *Concerning the Ordering of Divine Worship in the Congregation*, 1523

P: In our last sickness, and in the hour of death,
C: **Console and defend us, O Lord.**

P: In Your Judgment, when the last sentence is pronounced,
C: **Deliver us, O holy and merciful Savior.**

P: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord. That You would vouchsafe to us true repentance and a good conscience;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That You would enable us to bear all our trials patiently, and to glorify You in our daily life;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That You would defend and govern Your holy church, especially in this land;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That You would vouchsafe to all our brethren, especially those dearest to us, unity, peace, and true concord;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That You would vouchsafe to the afflicted and suffering in soul or body Your merciful aid and deliverance;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That You would continually exalt our minds to heavenly desires;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That we may be more and more perfected in the fruits of the Spirit, and better conformed to Your most holy will;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: That being uncertain of the hour of our death, we may study to be watchful, and prepared to give an account of our stewardship;

C: **We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;

C: **Hear us, O Lord.**

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;

C: **Spare us, O Lord.**

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;

C: **Have mercy upon us.**

13. The Lord's Prayer

All sing:

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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Advent means "coming." We look back to the time when Jesus came in humility as a baby conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We continue to look to the present when he comes to us in Word and Sacrament. We look forward to the time he will come in glory at the Last Day.

Matthew 6:9-13

Advent is a season of preparation, and is therefore a penitential season, or a season of repentance. A Litany, or prayer list, is a traditional portion of penitential worship, guiding our eyes constantly to the God who provides us all we need. We come before God with all these petitions and know that he promises to hear us, and he will give us his blessings through the Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service.

12. The Advent Litany

- P:** Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
- P:** O God the Father, who so loved the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son to save us;
- C: Have mercy upon us.**
- P:** O God the Son, who came in the likeness of sinful flesh to suffer for us, and will come again to be our Judge;
- C: Have mercy upon us.**
- P:** O God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully visits the souls of Your elect, to abide with us forever;
- C: Have mercy upon us.**
- P:** Holy Trinity, Blessed forevermore,
- C: Be favorable to us, and bless us.**
- P:** From the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** From impenitence, unbelief, and neglect of Your holy commandments;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** From all carelessness, and forgetfulness of You;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** From Your wrath, whether in this world or in the world to come;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** From a slumbering conscience, and from an unprepared death;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By the compassion and long-suffering of God the Father;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By Your first Coming and humiliation;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By Your Passion, and most precious Death;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By Your intercession for us before the Father;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By Your second Coming in Your glorious majesty;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** By the mercies and comforts of God the Holy Spirit;
- C: Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P:** In our days of sorrow, weakness, and tribulation,
- C: Console and defend us, O Lord.**

6. A Hymn: #104:1, 2, 5, 6 | "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice"

7. A Sermon Song of Songs 3:6-11

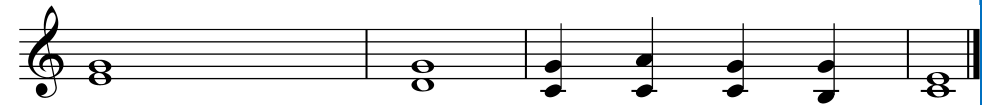
"See the Bridegroom Coming"

8. A Hymn: #94:4-6 | "I lay in fetters groaning"

9. An Offering

10. The Versicle

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense:



C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Having received the blessings of God, we respond out of thanks in gifts of our own: gifts of music and praise and prayer, and material gifts.

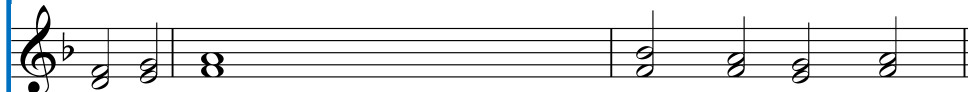
Psalm 141:2

Luke 1:46-55

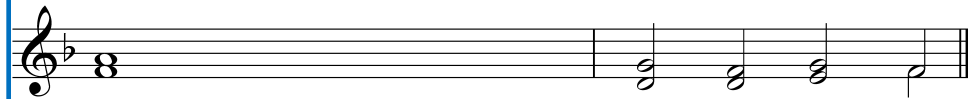
2:00 p.m. Service:

11. The Canticle: The Magnificat

This is the song Mary sang after visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Both were miraculously expecting children: Elizabeth's son would be the forerunner of the Savior, John the Baptist, and Mary's son would be that Savior, Jesus Christ. She praises the God who sent such a Savior to one even as lowly as she, and we likewise sing the praises of God who gives us salvation we don't deserve.



1. My soul magnifies the Lord:
 2. For He has regarded:
 >3. For, behold, from henceforth:
 4. For He that is mighty has done to me great things:
 5. And His mercy is on those that fear Him:
 >6. He has shown strength with His arm:
 7. He has put down the mighty from their seats:
 8. He has filled the hungry with good things:
 >9. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy:
 10. Glo- ry be to the Father and to the Son
 11. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev- er shall be:



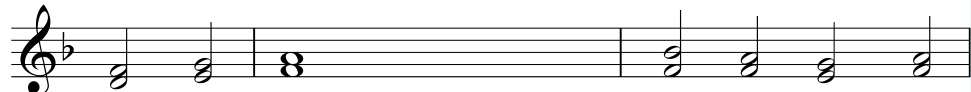
1. and my spirit rejoices in God my Sav- ior.
 2. low estate of His hand- maid- en:
 >3. all generations shall call me bless- ed.
 4. and ho- ly is His name.
 5. from generation to gen- er- a- tion.
 >6. He has scattered the proud in the imagi- nation of their hearts.
 7. and exalted those of low de- gree.
 8. the rich He has sent emp- ty a- way.
 >9. He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for- ev- er.
 10. and to the Ho- ly Ghost;
 11. forev- er- more. A- men.

7:00 p.m. Service:

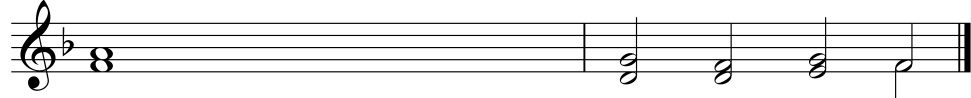
11. The Canticle: The Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

This is the song that Simeon sang when he held the Christ-child in his arms. Because we receive Christ into our hearts by faith, and in the Sacrament we receive him into our mouths and bodies, we are also able to depart in peace, having seen our Lord's salvation, as he has promised.



1. Lord, now You let Your servant de- part in peace:
 2. For my eyes have seen Your Sal- va- tion:
 >3. A Light to light- en the Gen- tiles;
 4. Glo- ry be to the Father and to the Son
 5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev- er shall be:



1. accord- ing to Your Word;
 2. which You have prepared before the face of all peo- ple;
 >3. and the glory of Your peo- ple Isra- el.
 4. and to the Ho- ly Ghost.
 5. forev- er- more. A- men.