

Contact Information:

320 West College St | Albert Lea, MN
Office Phone: (507) 373-6097
www.oursaviorsels.com
Rev. Michael G. Lilienthal, *Pastor*
Cell: (715) 295-4020
mlilienthal@blc.edu
Office Hours: Mon, Wed-Fri 9:00-3:00



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.

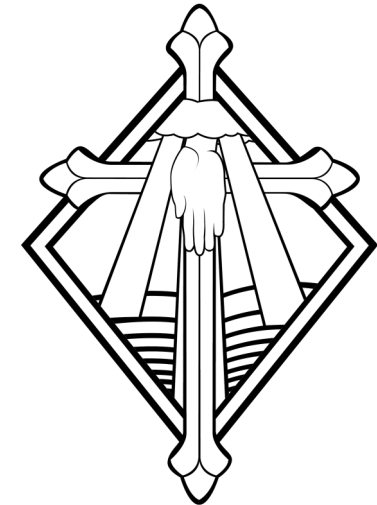
Welcome to our Honored Guests!

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.

 /oursaviorsalbertlea

 /oursaviorsels_al



THE OFFICE OF VESPERS
Evening Service

November 21, 2018 | 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: *Thanksgiving Eve*

Spiritual Focus: *Give Thanks to the Lord*

Preacher: Rev. Michael Lilienthal
Accompanist: 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 **THURSDAY 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: #461 | "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

3. *The Versicles*

P: O Lord, open my lips.



C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Sunday Morning Bible Study we are studying the Heritage Hymns of the ELS. 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of our synod's reorganization. We're looking back over the hymns that have been significant for our synod throughout the years, and are still true and powerful today.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study we are reading and studying the Gospel according to St. Luke. The only Gentile author of the Bible, writing to a Gentile audience, shows us how Jesus Christ fulfills the entire Old Testament and prepares us to receive the blessings of eternal life with him.



Please offer prayers for one another throughout your week, and for our homebound and ill. If you have specific prayer requests, please submit them to Pastor Lilienthal by Wednesday so that they may be published in the week's bulletin.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias may be purchased for our Christmas decoration. A sign-up is available in the narthex.


We will decorate for Christmas on Saturday, December 1st, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come help out!

Pastor Lilienthal will be out of town this weekend. He will be reachable by cell phone in case of emergency.

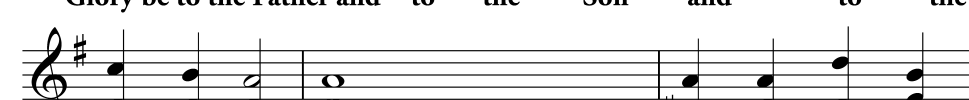
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me. Psalm 70:1



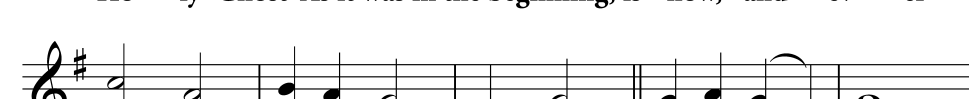
C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.



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!

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

Ecclesiastes 1:9, 3:14-15

Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6

4. *The Psalmody*: Psalm 67 | p. 182 (Tone 4)

Odd verses: Pastor | Even verses: Congregation | "Glory be to the Father...": All
Hymn #553 | "Behold a Host Arrayed in White"

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)

5. The Lection

First Lesson

⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks

Deuteronomy 8:6-18 (ESV)

multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ¹⁸You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

God weaves a pattern of worship into the lives of the Israelites. By remembering and keeping God's commands, they honor his name and show God's grace to the nations surrounding them. Their disobedience dishonors his name. How easily Christians today look upon themselves as self-made, dishonoring God in the process. Instead, may we pray as composer J.S. Bach did, "To God alone be glory" (Soli Deo Gloria), for there is no other Savior.

Psalm 123:3
Romans 7:25

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: #565 | "All Praise to Thee, My God This Night"



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**.

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.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked "ESV" are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

12. *The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie*

Matthew 9:27 ~ "And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David.'"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

13. *The Lord's Prayer*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

14. *The Collects*

Since it is the week of the 2nd Last Sunday of the Church Year, we pray the Collect for that Sunday (Collect #133, ELH p. 165).

P: Let us pray: O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that, being ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your last judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: A - - - - - men.

Luke 24:29

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.

Second Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

²²Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, 'To an unknown god.' Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. ²⁵Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. ²⁶From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the

boundaries where they would live. ²⁷He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'Indeed, we are also his offspring.'

²⁹"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. ³⁰Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

St. Paul reaches out to Athenians who do not know the Scriptures. He uses teachings from their philosophy and literature to point them to the God of creation, who sent his Son, Jesus. All people need to repent before Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead. The Creator desires that all people seek after Him. In love, He has come to us with the message of Jesus Christ, who has saved us by his resurrection.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

Psalms 123:3

Romans 7:25

"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

Third Lesson

Jesus underlines a great danger of being rich in earthly things but poor toward God. In a consumer culture, the dangers of covetousness are often downplayed; in fact, some even try to make greed a virtue. In love for us, however, Jesus warns us against the self-destructive nature of covetousness and gives us new hearts, which he, the very source of life and goodness, fills with joyful satisfaction through the Gospel.

Psalm 123:3

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Musical notation for Psalm 123:3. The melody is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

Romans 7:25

6. A Hymn: #464 | "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

7. A Sermon

Luke 12:15-21

"How Can We Thank God for All His Riches?"

8. A Hymn: #463 | "For the Beauty of the Earth"

9. An Offering

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.

Luke 12:15-21

¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man's life is not measured by how many possessions he has."

¹⁶He told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, 'What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸He said, 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and

goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry."

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?'

²¹"That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

10. The Versicle

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense:

Musical notation for the Versicle. The melody is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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

Psalm 141:2

11. The Canticle: The Magnificat

Musical notation for the beginning of the Magnificat. The melody is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 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. Glory be to the Father and to the Son
11. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

Luke 1:46-55

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.

Musical notation for the end of the Magnificat. The melody is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 1. and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

2. low estate of His handmaid:
>3. all generations shall call me blessed.
4. and holy is His name.
5. from generation to generation of their hearts.
>6. He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
7. and exalted those of low degree.
8. the rich He has sent empty away.
>9. He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.
10. and to the Holy Ghost;
11. forevermore. Amen.