



*Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2017*



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WELCOME

God welcomes you no matter who you are – and so do we. Thank you for joining us in God’s house today. Whether you are a first-time guest, a friend or relative of a member, or a curious observer from a different religious background, we are delighted to be with you in worship.

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP

We believe that Jesus is the Savior of all. By his life, death, and resurrection Jesus saves all sinners simply because he loves us. That is called the gospel, and it’s the good news on every page of God’s Word. Therefore, the Bible is not just information about God or rules from God, but the saving power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts and restore our lives. Lutheran worship places this good news at the center of the worship service with an order called *liturgy*. In both the Word and sacrament (Means of Grace), in specifically selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted and often ancient songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news of Jesus from start to finish.

Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out entirely. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal located in front of you. Parts marked **L** are spoken or sung by the worship leader, and the parts marked **C** and printed in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- **Quiet Bags** are for any parents with small children. They are on a stand in the back of church.
- **Weekly News & Notes** are printed in the back of this worship folder.
- **Restrooms** are to the left as you walk out the back of church or in the basement.
- **Website:** oursaviourwels.org

OUR CHURCH BODY

Our Saviour’s proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (wels.net). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod, as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This is a time of anticipation and preparation. Advent means “coming.” This first season of the Church Year helps the Church prepare for the threefold coming of Christ: his coming in the flesh at Christmas; his return on the Last Day; his daily coming in Word and Sacrament.

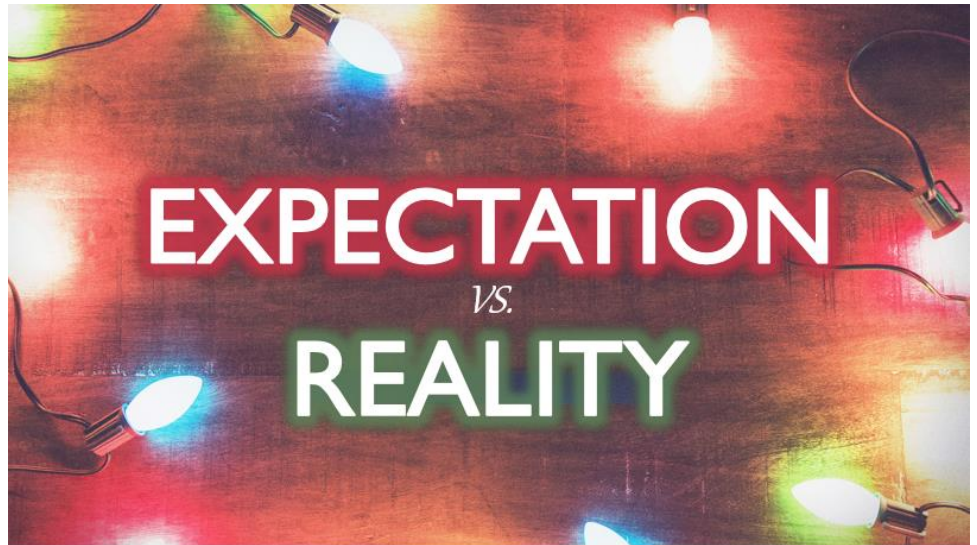
WORSHIP SERIES:

Dec 3 – The End

Dec 10 – Repentance

Dec 17 – Happiness

Dec 24 – Readiness



What people want this time of year and what actually happens are often drastically different. Some want peace and get stress. Some want happiness and get grief. Some want togetherness and they feel more alone than ever. What’s wrong? Our expectations are wrapped up in our earthly reality, our sinful reality. This Advent, as we get ready for Christmas, God wants us to know the reality he has given us makes the difference for our expectations both now on earth and for Christ’s second coming and our home in heaven. This week the topic is repentance. The expectation that repentance is what we do to get right with God leads us to our own actions and attitudes. To get ready for Christ, we can’t look inward to get right with God. God directs us to Christ with the law and gospel. With his Word, we have real repentance and real forgiveness.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

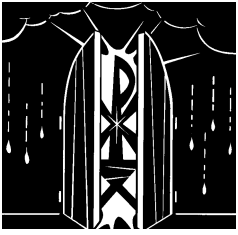
Presiding & Preaching *Pastor Tom Moldenhauer*

Organist *Jim Fors*

Ushers *Lee Roy Binder – Elder, Bill Rambough – Leader, Larry Rutscke, Joel Moos, Don Martin*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying | # 206

Please stand.

GATHERING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C (spoken) **And also with you.**

CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

L Dear friends, we are expecting the day when Christ will come again in glory.

Psalm 130:6

C **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

L The hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Romans 13:11

C **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.**

L So you also must be ready,

Matthew 24:44

C **because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

L If we are honest, our preparation is not living up to God's holy standard. But now is not the time for guilt to weigh you down and despair to set in. God has his ears open to hear the cries of his people, and he has an answer to cheer us. Let us confess our sins to him and listen to his answer.

C **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

L What God promised long ago through his prophets he has fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The long-expected Savior came. By his perfect life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection, he provided eternal salvation. God's answer is grace and mercy. Through faith this is your reality now and forever. Christ now comes to you with peace and forgiveness:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

L We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world lost in sin and death.

C We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

L We hear his call to be ready.

C We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and renewal.

L Come, Lord Jesus, as you have promised.

C Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.



While the candle is lit, the congregation sings:

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | # 7 v 1, 4

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**4 Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.**



THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray.

Pastor says the Prayer of the Day (at the bottom of page 3).

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited up front for a brief devotion with Pastor.

*Repentance leads
to comfort
spoken from the
Lord our God.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

- ¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.



L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 14

Psalms have been used in worship since the Old Testament.

L ¹ The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

C **They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.**

L ² The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind

C **to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.**

L ⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,

C **but the LORD is their refuge.**

L ⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

C **When the LORD restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!**

The Lord is a refuge for those weighed down by the reality of sin.

The Lord
patiently seeks
repentance.



SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

To so many
waiting for God
to send his
promised
Messiah, John
paved the way in
an unexpected
way.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ^a ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message:

“After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry | #16

SERMON

Mark 1:1-8

Repentance the Right Way

Please stand.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

A creed is a statement of faith. Creed comes from the Latin “credo,” which means “I believe.” The faith God gave us publicly and regularly confesses the triune God as Lord and Savior.

Please be seated.

THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The members of Our Saviour’s Lutheran join together to do the Lord’s work in Bismarck and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Help us be a friendly church by taking a moment to fill out the Friendship Register located at the end of the pew.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13



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.

Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort All My People | #11

Please stand.

PRAYER

L Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.



NEWS & NOTES

SERMONS

Copies of the sermon are available in the entryway.

CHURCH CLEANER

The cleaner position is open. Those interested can talk to Amber Kemmet about the duties or contact Scott Overson (527-4869).

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Registration is now open. Once again, we will cap this event at about 50 kids, so sign up early. Also, please check out the board to see if you can help with our Christmas evangelism event on December 16.

BIRTHDAYS

Lori Kershaw – December 11

Linda Kemmet – December 14

Brenda Demaray – December 15

MEALS FOR LENT

Sign up if you would be willing to organize a meal on Wednesdays in Lent (Feb 14-March 21). A meal would need to feed about 40-60 people.

BIBLE BASICS

For people who are interested in joining Our Saviour's or those wishing to review, this class is for you. Contact Pastor if interested.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

All are invited on Dec 17th after worship. Sign up at the bulletin board to bring a dish.

GIFT BAGS

We will be putting together gift bags for the shut-ins Dec 17th after brunch. For more info see Carol Humann or Lois Rambough.

THIS WEEK

Today Choir @ 8am
 Worship @ 9am
 Bible Hour @ 10:45am
 Sunday School Christmas Practice
 10:30-noon

Monday Men's Faith & Fellowship @ 6:30pm

Tuesday Elders @ 6pm

Wednesday Bible Night @ 6pm
 (Catechism, Women's, Adult bible
 studies, and child care @ Redeemer)

Sunday Choir @ 8am
 Worship @ 9am (Lord's Supper)
 Christmas Potluck @ 10:15am
 Sunday School Christmas Practice
 10:30-noon

A/V HELPERS

With the upgrade to our audio/visual equipment scheduled to be done before Christmas, we will need a few people to be trained on how to use the equipment so that our services can be recorded and archived online. Sign up on the bulletin board if you are willing to serve this way.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Grab some business cards invites for our Christmas services and find some friends or family to invite to our services. We will have the Sunday School Christmas Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Christmas Day worship is at 10am. God grant you peace and joy as your share "the good news of great joy that is for all people."

CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOUR'S



If you want to see something truly amazing this Christmas, you are going to need more than the best TV on the market or the latest viral video. If you want to hear something truly amazing this Christmas, you will want something better than a top of the line surround sound system or headphones. You are going to need a message from God! And you have that from God in this “good news of great joy that is for all people.” It is God’s amazing fulfillment of prophecy and promise. It’s an amazing proclamation first given by angels. It’s an amazing little baby wrapped up and lying in a manger. This gift is yours and always will be yours. This Christmas, God’s message is the only thing that is truly AMAZING!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US...

Christmas Eve – Candlelight Children’s Service at 7pm

Christmas Day – The Festival of Lessons and Carols at 10am

New Year’s Eve – 9am