



*First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 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.

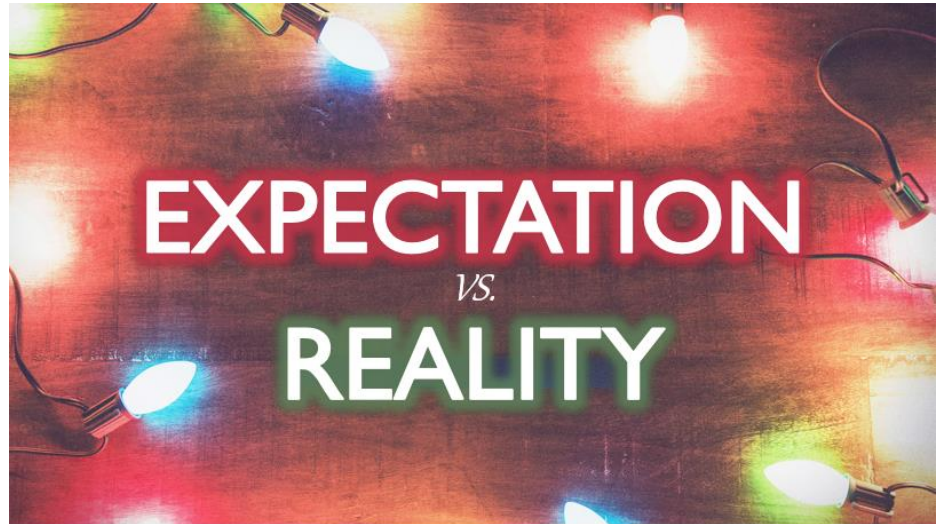
WORSHIP SERIES:

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 realities... our sinful, selfish realities. 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. With his reality our expectations are loftier than ever, because there is a Savior coming who rescues us and has an eternal home waiting for us.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding & Preaching *Pastor Tom Moldenhauer*

Organist *Deb Selland*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE SERVICE

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus | # 6

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 one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

L We hear his call to watch expectantly.

C We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

L Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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.

The Lord does things we could never expect.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16b,17; 64:1-8

- 16 ... you, LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.
17 Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?
Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.
1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!
2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!
3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?
6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.
8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 24

Psalms have been used in worship since the Old Testament.

Psalm 24 was a processional liturgy displaying Lord's entrance to Jerusalem. God is also with us who come to his house.

- L** 1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
- C** 2 **for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.**
- L** 3 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?
- C** 4 **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.**
- L** 7 Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
- C** **that the King of glory may come in.**
- L** 8 Who is this King of glory?
- C** **The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.
 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Unexpectedly, grace and peace, not punishment, is our from the Lord now and when he comes again.

- L** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.



Jesus encourages preparation, expecting his return soon.

³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come | #2

SERMON

Isaiah 63:16b,17; 64:1-8

Expect the Unexpected

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

L As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

L You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

L Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

L Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

THANK OFFERING¹ 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.



THE SACRAMENT

This familiar and ancient worship greeting begins the Sacrament section with the joyful assurance of our Lord's powerful presence.



Recorded for us in Isaiah 6:4, angels sing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty," in the presence of the Triune God. The Church sings the same song in preparation for His Supper, faithfully confessing the Lord's true presence in the Sacrament.

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes to save bring us the reality of heaven. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks

that your eternal Son, Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us,
that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law,
that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross,
that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Pastor offers a prayer in a similar way that Jesus did when he took bread and gave thanks before instituting this holy Supper.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

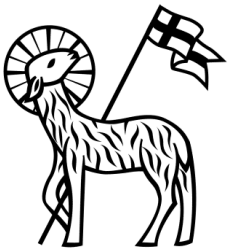
L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Pastor speaks these words of Jesus to set apart the bread and wine for the Lord's miraculous meal.



LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT



God tells us in the Bible that his Supper is for sinners who are accurately instructed in his word, who examine themselves by living in repentance, and who recognize the miraculous real presence of Jesus' body and blood. It is our joy and honor to trust God's Holy Word. Therefore, we ask that only current members (WELS/ ELS) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before taking part in the sacrament. He welcomes the chance to study what God says with you. And thanks so much for honoring God's Word in this manner.

✓ One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.

During the distribution the congregation is invited to sing the following hymn:

HYMN **O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide | #22**

HYMN **Jesus, You Church with Longing Eyes | #9**

After the distribution please stand.

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Psalm 118:1

C **His mercy endures forever.**

L Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

1 Corinthians
11:26

C **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

L We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with the saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE 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 (spoken) **Amen.**

This is the blessing God has bestowed on his people since the time of Moses (for over 3,500 years). These are the final words in worship as we depart with God's peace and power.



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

Art TebBroek – Nov. 30

Ethan Kershaw – Dec 2

WELS KINGDOM WORKERS PRESENTATION

After worship retired pastor, Gerald Geiger, will be here for a brief presentation on the work WELS Kingdom Works is doing. You will also be able to sign up if you would like to receive more information about their mission efforts.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Teens in 7-12 grade are invited to the next activity combined with Redeemer on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5pm.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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

THIS WEEK

Today	Choir @ 8am Worship @ 9am (Lord's Supper) Kingdom Workers @ 10:15am Bible Hour @ 10:45am Sunday School Christmas Practice 10:30-noon
Monday	Men's Faith & Fellowship @ 6:30pm
Wednesday	Bible Night @ 6pm (Catechism, Women's, Adult bible studies, and child care @ Redeemer)
Sunday	Choir @ 8am Worship @ 9am Bible Hour @ 10:15am Sunday School Christmas Practice 10:30-noon

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.

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 you 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