

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2017



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Paul Lutter, Interim Senior Pastor

Meagan Esterby, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Rooted in Faith + Growing in Christ + Reaching to Serve

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today. Ushers are available at the back of the sanctuary if you should need any assistance. Restrooms are located just down the hall and at the far west entrance. All God's children are welcome and celebrated in this sanctuary, with all their wiggles and giggles, but there is also a staffed nursery and changing station at the far end of the hallway for your convenience. We hope you can join us for cookies and fellowship following worship!

PRELUDE & WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
✠ one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
**in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* ELW 269



- 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
- 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
- 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

REETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING Numbers 6:22-27

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 8

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

¹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

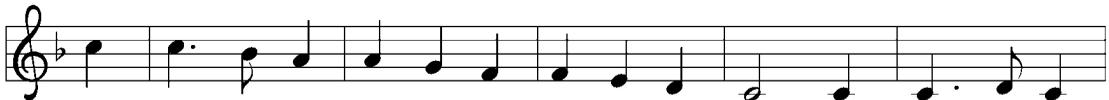
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

THE SONG FOR CHILDREN *Away in a Manger* ELW 277 vs. 1 & 2



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE SONG FOR CHILDREN *Away in a Manger* ELW 277 vs. 3



3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

THE SECOND READING Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Love has Come" ELW 292 vs. 1



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it;

hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Love has Come" ELW 292 vs. 3

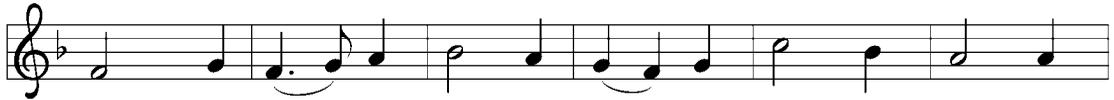
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* ELW 631



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let every heart receive your Savior.

All are welcome to the Lord's table! You will be offered the wafer; please receive it in your open palm and eat. Then take either the wine (dark) or grape juice (light) in the small cup and drink. Those not wishing to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing. Children not communing will receive a blessing and a teddy graham. Children may indicate if they are ready to receive communion by offering an open palm.

COMMUNION HYMN *Peace Came to Earth* ELW 285

- 1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
when angels clove the sky with song and light
and God embodied love and sheathed his might--
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!

- 2 And who could be the same for having held
the infant in their arms, and later felt
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled--
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!

- 3 You show the Father none has ever seen,
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
in bread and wine you visit us again--
Who could but see Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

- 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise Immanuel!

COMMUNION HYMN*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord* ELW 286

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

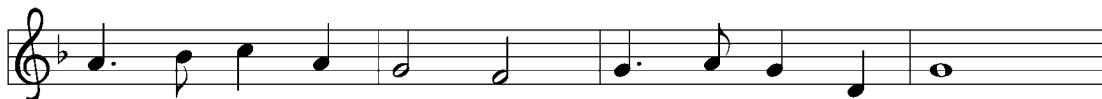


come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.





1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MISSION AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth,
 give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son,
 and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Joy to the World

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE