

Second Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection | Luke 1:24-45 | Isaiah 40:1-11

PRELUDE

Mark Ongalo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING How does a weary world practice peace?

By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

**Inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

GATHERING SONG Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection.

The prayers of confession is a place of connection with God.

In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves.

And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven.

There is no greater joy than that.

Join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can.

Let us connect with our merciful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of laughter,

God of open front doors

and family reunions,

we confess that we often doubt good news.

We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open.

There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy.

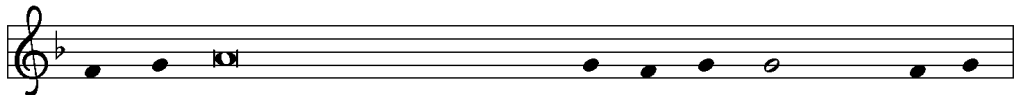
So trust this; *believe this*: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven.

And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

KYRIE *Congregational response "Lord Have Mercy"*



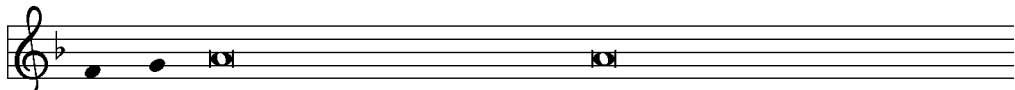
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



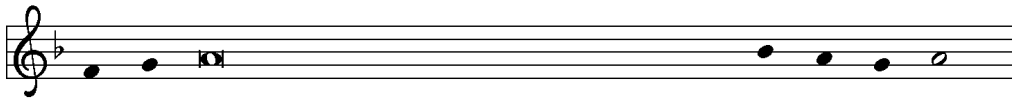
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



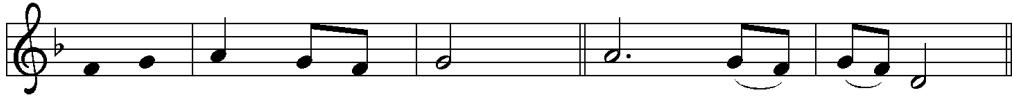
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B-flat4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: D4, C4, B-flat4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

GOSPEL LUKE 1:24-45

The Holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

ELW 265

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God.

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.

Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope.

And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another.

So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(There will be no spoken response. There will be moments of silence between petitions. Use this time to add your own prayer request or lift up what is on your heart)*

SHARING THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 191

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

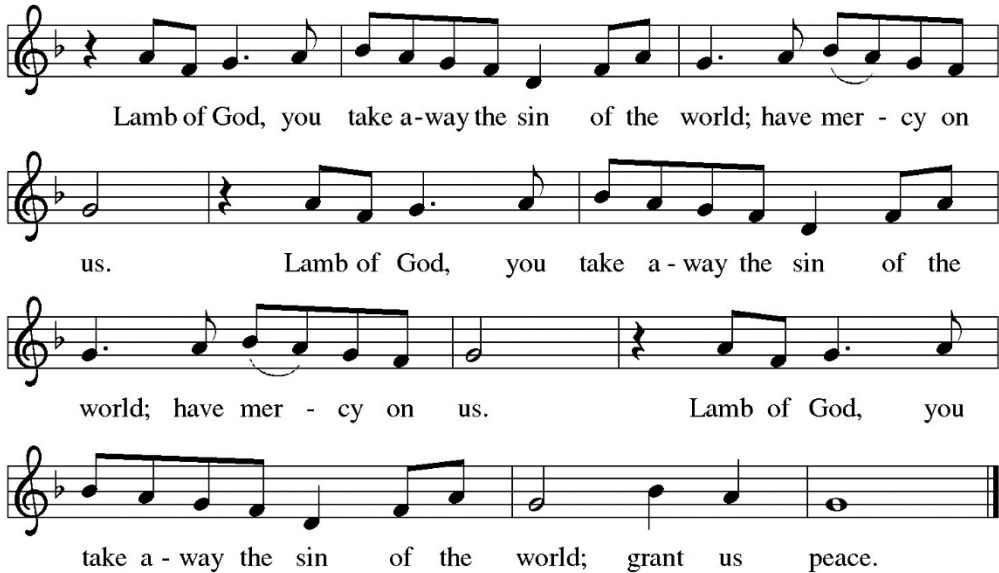
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 135



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 peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS We Come To The Hungry Feast
Come Now, O Prince Of Peace

ELW 479
ELW 247

TABLE BLESSING

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world –
So speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.
Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Prepare The Royal Highway*

ELW 264

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep wake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Ongalo

We hold in our prayers

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Marcia, Diane, Russ, Jayson, Kate, Joe, Matthew, Carolyn B., Dan, Adeline, Jesse, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Hermine, Deb L., Matt, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Wally C., Marlene S., Bonnie M.(MS), Victoria. Ginny Ahrlin, prayer leader for this month, at 218-749-0056 for prayer needs.

If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.

Visitors and Friends

We at Our Savior's practice open communion during Sunday Worship. Our Lord invites us to share a holy meal at His altar, and we understand that invitation to be open to all who wish to commune with us. You are therefore welcome to join us in our Lord's Supper. If you prefer a Gluten Free wafer or juice, please let the Pastor/server know.

A warm welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us this morning! Please join us for coffee fellowship following the service.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 218-741-6207

office@oslcmn.com

www.oslcmn.com

www.facebook.com/oslcmn

YouTube Page ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church Virginia MN Office

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Office Admin hours will now be Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Liz will be here Mondays & off Fridays - 218-780-8907
or lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Church Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson

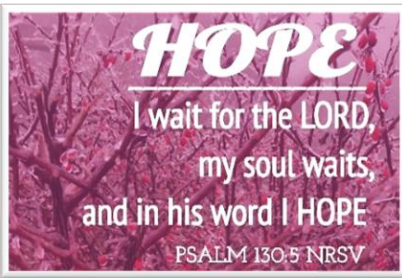
Bookkeeper: Carole Rutka

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, Ginny Ahrlin

Custodian: Steve Gagnon




Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, Dec. 3rd, 2023

WANTED! Council member nominations: The nominating committee is seeking those interested in serving on Church Council, other committees and as delegates to VLM & the Synod. There are six council members getting off council in January. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Nancy Fisher, Jackie Witty or Tamera Brown.

ADVENT MID-WEEK EXPERIENCE: We will continue our time together this Wed., Dec. 6th, with a meal at 5:30, then study & Worship (till approx. 7pm). Also Dec. 13, and 20th. You are invited to be a part of this experience to help you become more deeply aware of the waiting time & help you express for yourself (or publicly) what you are longing for in your spiritual life. Each Wednesday will begin with dinner & fellowship together (no cost for dinner). We will explore scripture, reflect on questions, and dig deeper each evening with an intentional experience around art, poetry, music or tother media as well. Bring a friend, neighbor and yourself! Week two's topic is **We find joy in connection.**

 **CHORALAIRES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The Choralaire's Concert is TODAY AT 2PM here at OSLC. **We are in need of holiday cookies to share after the concert!** Please bring cookies to the kitchen if you are able to donate-thank you!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IS COMING TO OUR SAVIORS! Join us **Saturday, Dec. 9th 8:00 - 11:00am.** We are providing this breakfast to our community, sharing warm food & hospitality with our neighbors. **Open to all, and it's free!** Let the office know if you would like to join in the fun & help out in any way!

LEFSE SALE: Lefse will be available to purchase after the worship service **Sunday, Dec. 10th!**

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG: You may be wondering what this "Sing Around the tree" is all about! Come and find out! As a little girl, one of my fondest memories is the annual sing around the tree event here at Our Savior's and it is just what you imagine. A big Christmas tree in the middle of the fellowship hall; chairs all the way around it, a piano and people! We sing our favorite Christmas carols. Kids dance and have fun around the tree. We start the evening with a potluck because why not share in a meal together! Food brings us together! Fellowship happens and fun is had by all! Help bring back this wonderful family fun event and join us on **Sunday, December 10th. We will eat at 5:00** and then sing after dinner. Bring a dish to share and be ready to make a joyful noise!



TECH TEAM FORMATION Within the next few weeks OS will have the equipment and ability to live stream our worship services, funerals, weddings, concerts, etc... LIVE! People will be able to tune in at 9:30 on Sunday mornings and watch our worship in the moment on both our FB page & YouTube. This is very exciting! Pastor is looking to put together a Tech Team that would be able to help on Sunday mornings get mics on, camera on, radio on, etc... Dan Peliska has been our solo Tech Team with help

from our secretary Colleen. It's time to expand our team, and with our new equipment, now seems to be a good time. Please talk with Pastor Liz if you are interested in helping out in this way.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE It is time to re-energize our Social Concerns Committee as we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, but beyond that there are many social concerns OS could be a part of. If you are interested in social justice, outreach ministry and concern for our local community this is the team for you! See Pastor Liz for more information.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS The lists are in the narthex for signing up to donate meal items. Please have items here by Dec. 20th. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE DAY: Our Christmas-Eve Day worship will take place on Sunday, Dec. 24th at 9:30am and our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 4pm.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday Worship in honor of someone or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so in full for \$90 or shared/partial at \$45. Just call the church office, **and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain.**

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS & STUDY

GIVING IS EASY WITH OUR QR CODE

Just scan it with your phone's camera to learn more about contributing to OSLC's Ministries!



Join us this afternoon

for the

Choralaire's Annual Christmas Concert



TODAY AT 2:00 PM
Here at Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
Coffee An' following ~

The mid-week *Advent* Worship was a beautiful experience Wednesday! Join us this week, Wed., Dec. 6th 5:30 -7pm for the second week of our study. We'll begin with soup dinner together. Invite a friend or family member.

DEC. 6th

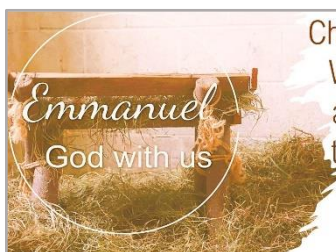
We find joy in connection

DEC. 13th

We allow ourselves to be amazed

Dec. 20th

We sing stories of hope



Christmas-Eve Day Worship will be at 9:30 am and the Candlelight Worship will Be at 4:00pm

Pick up your **ELCA Advent Calendar** in the narthex and take a look at the **Good Gifts** Display & Christmas Tree "Gift" ornaments!

