

OUR WORSHIP TODAY, Third Sunday in Advent – Gaudet Sunday**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

CONFESSONAL PRAYER

Pastor: In this season of Advent, our senses will be overwhelmed and we will be bombarded with all manner of distractions that will work against our true observance of the significance of the season. We will find ourselves being more concerned about less important things, and we will neglect the things that we should truly be about. This morning, we realize the difficulties that we face, and the poor job we have done with our response to the Word of God. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor:

As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate our Easter joy in His Holy Name. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: #77 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates! vs 1,4,5

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison):

Lord, help us to rejoice this Advent Season as we celebrate Gaudet Sunday. May the light of Your Gospel forever shine in our hearts. Amen.

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (ESV)

The Year of the Lord's Favor

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will

make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

PSALM: Psalm 126 (ESV) (*Recited whole verse by whole verse – Congregation in **Bold***)

Restore Our Fortunes, O Lord

A Song of Ascents. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

EPISTLE LESSON: 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24 (ESV)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (ESV)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you Oh Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say

about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Oh Christ.

SERMON "Rejoice, I Say to You, Rejoice!" Pastor Steve Dygert

SERMON HYMN: #235 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE OFFERING: Offertory - #86 Of the Father's Love Begotten – Pr. Steve

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

PRAYERS OF PRAISE: Let us Pray: (Prayer Response) Lord in your Mercy: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER, PREPARATION OF THE TABLE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, THE DISTRIBUTION THE COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: #236 All Creatures of Our God and King, vs 1,3,5

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Do you Hear What I Hear?, Dean Carson

CHRISTMAS CAROL: #110 What Child is This?

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship

our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on muted** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

Join Us On Christmas Eve! We will be celebrating our candle-light service at 6 pm on Sunday, December 24th. We will have our regular worship Sunday morning at 10 am, and our Christmas Eve Celebration at 6 pm. Join us for a wonderful musical experience celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steve Dygert

Asst. Pastor: Rev Tony Alonzo

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Office: (941) 249-5108

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study: Sunday 11 A.M.

Pastor's email: pastor@oslc-lcmc.com

Cell Phone: (260) 417-3304