

**OUR WORSHIP TODAY, SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

*Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

**CONFESSIONAL PRAYER**

Pastor: As we celebrate this Christmas Season, we remember both the good and bad things we have done this past year. This morning as we prepare for our New Year, we realize the difficulties 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 the Word, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, and of the Son, and of the 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:** #120 Ding Dong Merrily on High

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Unison):

**Lord, as we sit back and look at the positives and negatives of the last year, we ask for your assistance to help us make the new year better for us and for our service to you. 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 30:8-17 (ESV)

**A Rebellious People**

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.

For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern."

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

**PSALM: Psalm 111 (ESV)** *(Recited whole verse by whole verse – Congregation in **Bold**)*

Great Are the Lord's Works. Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

**they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

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

**EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: (ESV)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you Oh Lord.**

**Jesus Presented at the Temple**

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so

that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**The Return to Nazareth**

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.  
This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you oh Christ!**

**SERMON: 'What Does Salvation Look Like,' Pastor Steve Dygert**

**SERMON HYMN: #139 Good King Wenceslas**

**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 - #122 – In the Bleak Midwinter, Dean Carson**

*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: #132 Go Tell it on the Mountain**

**THE AARONIC 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!

**Re-Creations Concert on January 27<sup>th</sup>.** Remember are sponsoring the Gospel group the Re-Creations coming on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be signing up for jobs next week after our service.

**Christmas Gift thanks!** We want to thank all of you for your gracious and loving gift to us. We are so blessed to be in Jesus' service in this church. Thank all of you so much! **Ron, Pastor Tony, Pastor Steve**

**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](mailto:pastor@oslc-lcmc.com)  
Cell Phone: (260) 417-3304