



**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship of 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 mute*** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

**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.

**NEW LOOK FOR THE BULLETIN:** The two pictures at the top of the bulletin are the church's logo and the LCMC logo. The church's logo is the descent of the Holy Spirit into 'Our Savior' at the time of His Baptism.

**MISSION MOMENT:** I will be sharing what I learned at the LCMC Annual Gathering with you in the near future. It will mean we take steps to move more in a new direction to serve our neighbors.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 PM. It is a candlelight (tenebrae) service, so bring all of your friends and visiting family for an enjoyable evening!

**JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRIES:** New Year's Eve Day is the fifth Tuesday in December and our sandwich day! More information to follow.

**We Serve Today:**

*Reader: Jeanne Keyser*

*Offering: Jeff Cisco, Tony Alonzo*

*Communion: Bev Wilgus, Geri McGary, Jeanne Keyser*

*Greeter: Jean Mennenga*

**We Serve Next Sunday:**

*Reader: Geri McGary*

*Offering: Jeff Cisco, Tony Alonzo*

*Communion: Bev Wilgus, Geri McGary, Jeanne Keyser*

*Greeter: Jean Mennenga*

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**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME:** *Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

**CONFESSIONAL PRAYER** - *congregational responses in BOLD*

Pastor: Lord, we approach your altar this Advent Season with with love for You and our concern for the price you paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to your sacrifice. 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 on His cross, 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, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: 239 For the Beauty of the Earth vs 1,3,5**

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

**Almighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Christ, you once proclaimed salvation; we beseech you to now grant that we may know this salvation and serve you in holiness, righteousness, and joy, all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, 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 and Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10 (ESV)**

The Ransomed Shall Return

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

**And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

**PSALM: Psalm 146 (ESV)** (*Recited whole verse by whole verse – Congregation in **Bold***)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are**

**bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**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: James 5:7-11 (ESV)**

Patience in Suffering

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.**

*Please rise for the singing of the Alleluia.*

**Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:2-15 (ESV)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Chapter.

**Glory to You oh Lord!**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to

accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you oh Christ!**

**SERMON** *"I Choose Joy!"* dedicated to Betty O'Brien - **Pastor Steve Dygert + STS**

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

**OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; [God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;**

**He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."**

**THE OFFERING: Offertory - Whispering Hope – Ellie Selk**

*As the offering is brought forward, 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.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER: SHARING OF THE PEACE:**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.** *Greet those around you with the Peace of the Lord.*

### **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:** 27 How Great Thou Art

**THE AARONIC BENEDICTION & Let There Be Peace On Earth**

Congregational Song, **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our father  
Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
In peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** 105 Away in a Manger; 95 O Little Town of Bethlehem; 97 The First Noel

**THE DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M  
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