

PREPARE YE



Pray

*But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. Psalm 69:13*

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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December 6, 2020

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



The Gathering

(Please read this before worship begins.)

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. If you are visiting today, not knowing what to do, know through God you are welcomed and loved. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

I cannot say what Communion is any better than Luther, so I'll let him say it. In the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, and more in The Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

This is shown by the words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, along with the bodily eating and drinking, the main thing in the Sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has what they say: that is, the forgiveness of sins.

- As we travel this wilderness of COVID-19, it is right and proper for us to participate in the Eucharist as we are gathered as the church in person, as well as live streaming. Holy Communion takes place in the assembly of the Body of Christ.
- Online Communion is new territory for us as we navigate our new context. After reading Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, after much prayer and discernment, I believe this technology should be used in such manners to share God's grace, love, forgiveness and acceptance.
- As we assemble in person or live stream, when confessions are heard and forgiven, as the Word is proclaimed, it is proper for Communion to take place as we are then sent out as the Body of Christ for the world. I ask you to only commune as the live Word is spoken and not commune to the recording of this service.
- Please use bread and wine or a gluten free option and grape juice. Please prepare a plate and cup prior to service to have and share. If you have one and not the other, know that God is fully present in both elements and only one is necessary.

- God is the One working through the spoken Word in the mystery of communion. We don't fully know how, rather we know Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body," ... "Take this and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." God is the source of love infused into us through the Spirit as we partake of the Eucharist. We don't understand it fully; we fully believe Christ is there fulfilling His promises of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Remember: All Are Welcome – Hospitality fills God's Table – Everywhere!

Pastor Randy

Prelude Music

Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Hopeful) Arr. Anne Krentz Organ
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn Arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn Arr. Aaron David Miller
Unexpected and Mysterious Arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Arr. William Beckstrand

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **Amen.**
- P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for God!
- C **God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.**
- P God will not leave us until God has done what God has promised.
- C **Surely the Lord is in this place!**
- P This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
- C **For God sent John the Baptist—**
- P To turn the hearts of parents to their children.
- C **To make ready a people prepared!**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.
As we light these candles, Lord, hear our prayer: turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,
- C **let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**
- C (Sung) **Come now O God of love, our hearts are open.
Come, O Lord Jesus, listen to us praying.**

Confession and Absolution

- P Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry—
- C **Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**
- P Forgive what our lips tremble to name.
- C **What our hearts can no longer bear.**
- P And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
- C **As parents, we have not fully loved our children.**
- P As children, we have not fully loved our parents.
- C **Set us free from a past that we cannot change.**

P Open to us a future where we can be changed.

C **And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus.
Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. God also sends the Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

C **To make ready a people prepared!**

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C **Amen.**

The Word

L A reading from the book of Genesis.

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder^[a] set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him^[b] and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed^[c] in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 69:13, 30-36

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help

³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

³¹ This will please the LORD more than an ox
or a bull with horns and hoofs.

³² Let the oppressed see it and be glad;
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

³³ For the LORD hears the needy,
and does not despise his own that are in bonds.

³⁴ Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and everything that moves in them.

³⁵ For God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah;
and his servants shall live^[c] there and possess it;

³⁶ the children of his servants shall inherit it,
and those who love his name shall live in it.

L A reading from the book of 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “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.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red), hymn 752, sung 3 times: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

C **Turn the hearts of parents to their children.**

A Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children, siblings and parents who don’t know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

C **Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

P Tender Healer, for family members who are having failing health, we pray, especially for Herb, Candy, Jason, Fil & Shirley, Rosalie, Jeff, John, Beth, Denise, Pr. Judy, Barb, Tom, Donna, Helmut & Carol, John, Kim, Joe, Lynn, Connor & Mason, Judy, Nancy, Erwin, Alex, Victoria, Tom & Sue, Jennifer, and family and friends of Mary. Be with all who work to battle the pandemic. Protect those who risk their lives to help others, including health care workers. We pray also for those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and for others who struggle with pain and loss. For those facing financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

C **Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

P To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The Meal

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

- Please have your wine and bread ready for the Meal. It would be best to use grape juice or wine and a small portion of bread or gluten free option for the Eucharist.
- Please participate by lifting the bread and the wine as the pastor lifts the bread and wine.
- If everyone in the family is healthy please take the time to commune each other; presenting the bread first and saying, “the Body of Christ given for you” and then the wine/juice saying, “the Blood of Christ shed for you.” If you’re not feeling well, please commune yourself as you are able.
- The elements (bread and juice or wine) should be consumed in their entirety or returned to the earth as once they are consecrated they are the Body and Blood of Christ. Please do not throw Jesus in the trash or down the drain.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (John Mills is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is john_r_mills@icloud.com)



Offertory: ELW (red), hymn 240, verse 2 only: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
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Offering Prayer

- A Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
- C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P So come to this table, which now extends into our homes, you who have faith and you who would like to have faith; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Music: Mabel Wu
Music © 1992 Mabel Wu, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen,
keep and unite us, now and for ever.
C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- A God for whom we wait,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

The Sending

Sending Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 257, verses 1 & 2 only: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Masking Prayer (@RevCBeckett)

**C Lord, as I put on my mask, let it be a filter
 for my words to pass through as well as my breathing.
 Let through only those words which are helpful breathings of love
 and stop those things in my speech that will be harmful to others.
 Protect me also, O Lord, from the harmful things others may say to me.
 Help me to realize that I may be a carrier of bitterness,
 thoughtlessness, judgement and prejudice without realizing,
 and that some people are more word-vulnerable than others.
 Give me grace to love those who cannot or will not filter to protect others
 and special grace to them, because they go through the world unprotected.
 Help me to be prepared to adapt and be brave and transparent
 so that all may have a chance to hear.
 Lord, be a mask to my mouth
 and pin my ears forward for listening.
 Amen.**

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C **God heard Zechariah's prayer!**

P His wife bore a son named John,

C **who turns the children of Israel to the Lord their God,**

P and goes before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah,

C **to turn the hearts of the parents to the children to make ready a people prepared!**

Dismissal

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stick around; the Zoom meeting will continue with a virtual "Coffee Hour." All are welcome.

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Pastor Randy is available for pastoral care. Please contact him at: 260-402-4476 or by email: randy@osluth.org

Worship Assistants Today: Sandra Vana (Musician), Missy Shroeder (Assisting Minister & Lector), Emily Ohland & Bob Nielsen (Singers), Bob Nielsen (A-V Specialist)

Pints with a Pastor Will Resume in January

If you'd like to participate, send Pastor Randy an email randy@osluth.org) and he will send you a Zoom invite.

Sunday School for Toddlers—High School: Look for an email to register and links to participate as you are able.

Midweek Advent Gathering: On Wednesdays during Advent at 7 p.m. there will be a short (15-20 minute) **prayer gathering via Zoom**. Pastor Randy will send out the Zoom invitation on Monday each week. All are welcome.

The Social Justice Discussion Group will meet this **Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.** via Zoom to continue the discussion of Social Justice and Native Americans. **John Larson**, History professor at Purdue and OSLC member, will attend and give us a historical perspective. Contact Scott Vana if you'd like a Zoom invite (scottv1162@gmail.com).

Tuesday, December 15, 7 p.m. Game Night with the Webbs: Join Molly and Christian Webb for some fellowship and fun, Zoom style. Sign-up link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7P7BB6>.

Book Discussion Group: We'll meet via Zoom **December 20 at 5 p.m.** The book for December is Richard Paul Evans' *The Christmas List*. The January book will be *The Downstairs Girl* by Stacey Lee. Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org) for an invite.