



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST TO BE CHRIST IN THE WORLD

501 E. 23rd Street, Hibbing MN 55746 (218) 263-7422 – www.oslchibbing.org

+Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Prayer request and visitor cards can be found in the pew rack.

(*) Denotes when to stand, if you are able. **Boldface** readings are spoken together.

Prelude Partita on "People Look East" by Joesph Bertolozzi Nadine Berg

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

"Prepare The Royal Highway"

#264

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***Kyrie**

p. 147 (ELW)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

Glory to God

p.148

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***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.**

Reading

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God

A reading from 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 forever. 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.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem (Handbells) *"Lo How a Rose"*

Children's Message

Pastor Kevin C. Olson

***Gospel Acclamation**

p.151a

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

***Gospel**

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

"Make Straight The Way"

Pastor Kevin C. Olson

***Hymn of the Day**

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

#249

***Apostles' Creed**

Along with the church, we confess our faith.

**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 to the dead.
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 catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Reception of Offering

"Pastorale" by Valentin Rathgeben

Nadine Berg

***Offertory Response**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#257 v.2

***Offering Prayer**

God of all creation, **all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*** Lord's Prayer**

p. 154b

***Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn**

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

#239

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Lift up Your Heads" arr. by: Franklin Ritter

Nadine Berg

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Kevin C. Olson
Acolytes: Aubry Kangas & Eli Kangas
Lector: Sue Stanisich
Cantor: Kara Ronning
Choir Director: Roy Berg
Organist: Nadine Berg
Videographer: Dustin Davidson/John Law
Ushers: Keith & Cindy Eggert / Todd & Amy Rice
Tellers: Jill Klapatch & Debbie Lind
Altar Guild: Peggy Graham

NEWS & NOTES

Best wishes to Beth Kimmes who celebrates her birthday on Saturday. Happy Birthday!!

Our radio broadcast is sponsored Darrold & Laurie Persson in Memory of Don & Myrna. Thank you and God Bless you!

Office Hours

Please note a change in our office hours: They are now: 9 am to 2 pm Monday – Friday. Thank you.

Camp / Youth Fundraiser

As in years past, the youth of Our Savior's will be selling Christian-themed calendars and blank greeting cards featuring photographs and Bible verses.

This sale is supported by Thrivent and the proceeds will help our young people attend VLM Camps next summer. Calendars and note cards will be available in the Narthex Sundays before service, in Fellowship Hall during coffee fellowship and in the office during business hours. Calendars cost \$8 each or 2/\$15, 3/\$20 and only \$5 each for any more. Thanking You in advance for your support.

AEOA Let's help Those In Need:

The AEOA is accepting new or like new items for Home on the Range! Items needed: Lotion, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Brush/comb, Towels, twin Sheets, Pillows, Blankets, Toilet Paper, Paper Towel, Cleaning Products and Feminine Hygiene Products. Thank you for your Consideration!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is looking for a kind hearted member to fill in for the month of January. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne Clark or the church office. Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

Today, 10th

9:00 Worship &
Sunday School
10:00 Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 Radio Broadcast
1240 AM WMFG
6:00 VOICES of Reason

Monday, 11th

11:00 Funeral Service
Connie Elavsky

Tuesday, 12th

9-11:30 Quilting
Potluck to follow
1:00 Staff
4:00 Property
Church Council

Wednesday, 13th

8:30 Bible Study
1:00 Food shelf

Poinsettia Plants / Mission Offering

As is the tradition at Our Savior's, members and friends of Our Savior's are being offered the opportunity to donate funds for the Christmas season for poinsettia plants and/or the mission project. Poinsettia plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and later cheer our members in their homes. Each plant costs \$20. Envelopes are available in the narthex and the church office. Deadline for listing donors' names in the Christmas Eve bulletin is Tuesday, Dec. 12th. Thank you for your support of the mission project and cheering our members.

OSLCW

Women of the church will meet following today's worship service in Room 1 to discuss finances and disbursements. All women are encouraged to attend. Yes, coffee will be available.

The Women's monthly Gather magazine Bible study group will meet on Thursday, December 14 at 10. Extra copies of the magazine are available.

Quilting and our winter potluck will be on Tuesday the 12th due to a funeral on Monday.

