

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

420 N. Progress Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-1040

Phone: (717) 545-9992

Office Email: ossec@comcast.net

Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org

Joel D. Petruschke, Pastor, pastorjoelp@comcast.net

Barbara Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Worship 9:00 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *

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

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess
that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what 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.

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake
God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE *

OPENING HYMN* *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Refrain:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:

Refrain:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain:

ELW #283

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

The Word of the Lord. *Response: Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20 (read responsively)

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. *Response: Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *

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

GOSPEL * John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.ⁿ ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.ⁿ ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.ⁿ ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")ⁿ ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.ⁿ ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.ⁿ ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of our Lord. **Response: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY * *"God, Whose Almighty Word "*

ELW #673

God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the
gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight; health to the troubled mind, sight where
illusions blind; oh, now to all humankind let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight; move on the water's face, bearing the
lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.

Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in
fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

APOSTLES' CREED*

**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 * Response: Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER *

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING * Response: Amen, Amen, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN * "O Word of God Incarnate"

ELW #514

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

2

The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quick-sands still guides, O Christ, to you.

3

Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations your true light as of old;
oh, teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

DISMISSAL *

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus, the Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

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An altar vase today is presented to the Glory of God in memory of her father, Herbert Schreier by Linda Schreier.

The 2nd altar vase today is presented to the Glory of God in honor of Deb Flage's birthday by Eva Farling.

***We again welcome back Mitchell Sensenig to our organ console
this morning and thank him for providing our music.***

Thank you – Mike & Doris Balas would like to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes.

Your 2021 offering envelopes are now in your church mailbox ready for you to pick up.
Please note: a few people have different envelope numbers than they had in 2020.

Manna Food Pantry – Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During the winter, around the holidays and during this time of the pandemic food pantries are seeing a greater demand of their services. If you would like to make a donation you may bring your items into the church & place them on the table in the Narthex at any time. If you are not comfortable with coming into the church building we would be happy to offer "curbside drop-off" during regular office hours. Pastor Joel & Barb are keeping their regular hours

during this current shut-down. Just let us know & will be happy to come out & get your donation from you. Thank you.

Help us keep an updated prayer list. If you have placed an individual on our prayer list, please remember to notify the office when that individual can be removed. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Musser family (Carol Ranck's in-laws), Ann Wolf, Diane Trullinger (friend of Marcia Schreffler), Cheryl Digon (Ed & Malane Digon's daughter-in-law), Lorraine Brubaker (friend of Nancy Pinko), Kathy (friend of Andrea Faber), Carol Ranck, Alexa Phillips (Ed & Malane Digon's granddaughter), John Digon (Ed Digon's brother), Doris Balas, Linda Freed, Kelly Utter, Andrew H. (Carol Ranck's cousin), Daniel Barbuscio (Dottie Koppenhaver's son), Gertrude Gassner (friend of Merle Beachell), Julianna Stoner (friend of Eva Kunz), Linda Schreier, Chuck Walker (friend of Nadine & Otis Martin), Pastor Chuck & Shelley Lisse, Peter & Katie (Irene Nanov's children), Bruce MacMurtrie (brother of Hope Bowling), Kathy Dare, Bob Sheetz (Bill's brother), Lisa McManuels, Patsy Baumann, Linda Brittelli (Tara Beachtel's step-mom), Lee Wheeler (friend of Kathy Dare), Makwan Sayed (friend of the Flemings), Christy Silvers (friend of Nedda Pollock), Helen Kester (friend of Malane Digon), Veronika Lenker (friend of the Flemings), Candy Evans, Millie Horvath, Romaine Leedy (Marion Tosheff's sister), Veronica Malesic (Mindy Grace's mother-in-law), Jesse (neighbor of Kathy Dare), Michael Zorek (Mindy Grace & Melanie Trea's brother), Corine Harold (friend of Kathy Dare), Joe Newman (friend of Kathy Dare), Pastor Sharron Blezard (assistant to the Bishop), Betty Giovaninello (friend of Linda Schreier), Don Bolonif (friend of Kathy Dare), Sondra Andrews (Bob & Jean Lisse's daughter), Marsha Randel (Bob McIntyre's cousin), Connie Johnson, Barbara Hammell (Betty's daughter), Bob & Jean Lisse, Kenly Underkufler (relative of Tom & Wendy Snyder), Vernel Brown (friend of the Flemings), Bishop Dunlop.

Pray for missionaries, especially Tonya Starner in Mongolia.

Pray for our military, especially Ian Bowling, Jason Nunez, Noel Sanchez & George Schreffler, III .

Pray for our shut-ins, especially Shirley Kaltreider, Diane Lehrman, Irene Nanov, Miriam Reinard, Ellavene Rutter, Alta Shadel, George Sheleman, Tom & Wendy Snyder.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ welcomes all people to worship and grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.