

Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



Saturday Worship † 16 December 2023

The Third Saturday of Advent † Year B

6194 Dumfries Rd. Warrenton, VA 20187 + 540.347.3224. + www.oslc-warrenton.org

Preservice Song

Jesus Messiah

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Refrain: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners,
The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing (**Refrain**)

All our hope is in You,
All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world. (**Refrain**)

GATHERING

Gathering Song

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW244
Verses 1, 2, 4

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.**

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent 3

- L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
L Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
L Blessed be God forever.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

- L Let us pray.
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Children's Message

Children come forward during "This Little Light of Mine".

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- L A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

L We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will read the sections in bold print.

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with
shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great
things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

L A reading from Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do
not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but
test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form
of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your
spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will
do this.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The congregation remains seated during the multi-voice presentation of the lesson.

P The holy gospel according to St. John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

St. John: ⁶ A man named John, who was sent by God, *was the first to clearly articulate the source of this Light.* ⁷ This baptizer put in plain words the *elusive mystery of the Divine Light* so all might believe through him. *Some wondered whether he might be the Light,* ⁸ but John was not the Light. He merely pointed to the Light.

¹⁹ The reputation of John was *growing*; and many had questions, including Jewish religious leaders from Jerusalem. ²⁸ So some *priests and Levites* approached John in Bethany just beyond the Jordan River while he was baptizing *and bombarded him with questions:*

Religious Leaders: Who are you?

John the Baptist: ²⁰ I'm not the Anointed One, *if that is what you are asking.*

Religious Leaders: ²¹ *Your words sound familiar, like a prophet's.* Is that how we should address you? Are you the Prophet Elijah?

John the Baptist: No, I am not Elijah.

Religious Leaders: Are you the Prophet *Moses told us would come?*

John the Baptist: No.

Religious Leaders: ²² Then tell us who you are and what you are about because everyone is asking us, *especially the Pharisees*, and we must prepare an answer.

St. John: ²³ John replied with the words of Isaiah the prophet:

John the Baptist: *Listen!* I am a voice calling out in the wilderness. Straighten out the road for the Lord. *He's on His way.*

St. John: ²⁴⁻²⁵ Then some of those sent by the Pharisees questioned him again.

Religious Leaders: How can you *travel the countryside* baptizing people if you are not the Anointed One or Elijah or the Prophet?

John the Baptist: ²⁶ Baptizing with water is what I do; but the One *whom I speak of, whom we all await*, is standing among you; and you have no idea who He is. ²⁷ Though He comes after me, I am not even worthy to unlace His sandals.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day

People Look East

ELW248

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Prayers of the People

When prompted, everyone is encouraged to call out names of people, places or organizations for which they are thankful or that are in need of God's care.

The minister begins the prayers:

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hear now the names we speak before you and each other.

The minister concludes the prayers:

- P** Into your hands, O God, we commend those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** Amen.

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

- L** Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

Offertory Song

King of Kings

W&P80

King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.
King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.
Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.
Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.

Offering Prayer

- L** Let us pray together.
- C** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dialogue

- 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

- P** Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C** Amen

Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray as our Savior taught us.
- C** 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.

Sharing Holy Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body.
If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come
forward and stand or kneel around the altar.*

Communion Song *Light of the World*

The world waits for a miracle,
The heart longs for a little bit of hope.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
A child prays for peace on earth,
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt,
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
And can you hear the angels singing:

Glory to the Light of the world.
Glory, the Light of the world is here.

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,
A baby's cry is the sound of love come down.
Come down, Emmanuel.
He is the song for the suffering.
He is Messiah the Prince of peace has come.
He has come; Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world.

For all who wait, for all who hunger,
For all who've prayed, for all who wonder,
Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel. Emmanuel.

Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world.
Glory to the light of the world.
Behold your King, behold Messiah.
Emmanuel. Emmanuel.

The world waits for a miracle,
The heart longs for a little bit of hope,
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

L The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW257
Verses 1, 5, 6, 7

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. (***Refrain***)

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. (***Refrain***)

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. (***Refrain***)

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP REMINDER

There will be no Saturday service next week.

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 24
at 10:30am to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent
and at 7pm and 10:30pm for Christmas Eve services

As well as Monday, Dec. 25
For a 10:30am Christmas Day Service

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