

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

West Des Moines, IA

Sunday, December 5, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful word and celebrate his life--- giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him. We pray that this hour of worship fills you with the peace of God that transcends all understanding through our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor and have any questions, please speak to an usher, pastor, or any of our members. Thank you, and we hope you enjoy your time here at Beautiful Savior! We invite you to worship with us again soon!

TRUE WORSHIP

True worship is more than the speaking or singing of words from a printed page. It takes place in the heart of each believer as we hear the Bible read, explained, and applied to our lives, and as we respond in grateful adoration to God for His great love and mercy in Jesus Christ. It is helpful to arrive early to look over the service and to spend time in prayer. While worship may take various forms, the use of standardized orders of worship ("liturgies") dates back to the early Church, as a means of reinforcing Biblical beliefs and actively involving the congregation in worship.

THE SACRAMENT (2ND AND LAST SUNDAY)

In this Sacrament, Christ not only gives us bread and wine, but His holy body and blood, for the forgiveness of those who believe this (Matthew 26:26-28), but to the judgment of those who do not so believe. (1 Corinthians 11:27-31). Nothing is more sacred. Scripture requires that Pastors, as "stewards of the mysteries of Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:1), commune only those who are spiritually prepared and in full doctrinal agreement. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 13:17, James 3:1, 1 Timothy 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-5). We therefore ask that you please speak with the pastor before you receive the Lord's Supper at Beautiful Savior for the first time. Thank you.



Second Sunday of Advent

PEACE

December 5, 2021



SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

CW pg. 38

HYMN 224 GOD HIMSELF IS PRESENT

1 God him - self is pres - ent — Let us now a - dore him
 2 God him - self is pres - ent — Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
 3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,

And with awe ap - pear be - fore him.
 See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing.
 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it.

God is in his tem - ple — All with - in keep si - lence,
 "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" — Hear the hymn as - cend - ing,
 Like the ho - ly an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore you,

Hum - bly kneel in deep - est rev - 'rence.
 Songs of saints and an - gels blend - ing.
 May I cease - less - ly a - dore you.

He a - lone On his throne Is our
 Bow your ear To us here: Hear, O
 Let your will Ev - er still Rule your

God and Sav - ior; Praise his name for - ev - er!
 Christ, the prais - es That your Church now rais - es.
 church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and

deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the second Advent candle is lit—the Peace Candle—the congregation sings CW 23 OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: ♪ **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON MALACHI 3: 1-4

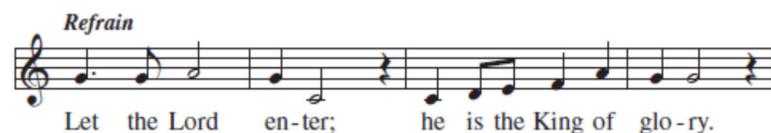
Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the Lord of Armies.

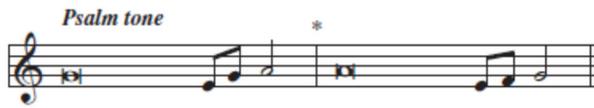
² But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach!

³ He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the Lord and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴ Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the Lord as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

PSALM OF THE DAY PSALM 24





The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who

began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

C: ♪ **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

STAND

GOSPEL LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

M: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
C: ♪ **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY 16 ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounce -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON GOD IS NOWHERE OR GOD IS NOW HERE

Sermon Text: Malachi 3:1-4

OFFERING

We did not pass the offering plate this morning. If you desire, your offering may be placed in the plate at the back of the sanctuary after worship, or consider using Vanco Online as linked on our website.

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Almighty God, everlasting Father, we are grateful to you for the great things you have done for us.

C: **Most of all, we are thankful to you for sending your Son Jesus.**

P: We thank you for your messenger John the Baptizer, who even today in scripture reminds us that we need to be prepared to meet your Son at his Second Coming.

C: **Help us to not be afraid of Christ’s sudden return, but to be ready.**

P: Send us, O Lord, your Holy Spirit as we abide in your Word of Scripture, that he may help us be ready, by true repentance and amendment of life.

C: **Help us provide pathways for the gospel that people everywhere may believe in your Son Jesus Christ, who came to be savior of all.**

P: Help us to remove those things in our life that could be obstacles that could prevent others from seeing you at work in us.

C: **May your love abound in us more and more, as you have loved us.**

P: Help us to approve what is excellent, pure and blameless in your sight.

C: **Fill us with the fruits of faith that come through faith in your Son.**

P: Help people of all nations to hear and find Peace in your Gospel message.

C: **Touch our hearts to bring your Gospel of Salvation to all people.**

P: Direct and govern our lives so that we may be shining lights for you.

C: **Be with those who cannot gather with us for worship this morning.**

P: For those in need of your merciful assistance, be their strength and tower.

C: **For the lonely, be their ever-present comfort and Joy.**

(Special Petitions)

P: According to your will, O Lord,

C: **grant our requests in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior . Amen.**

LORDS 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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace," so says our God.
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.
 All that well de - serve his an - ger He no more will see or heed.
 Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance For the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign.

Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 They have suf - fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

God's Word

for This Week: Preparing for Purity Is Often Painful

Many people look for easy fixes for their problems. God, though, often puts his people through a long, painful process to prepare us to embrace the Savior he has sent. God always works through his Word to develop in us a life that shows the fruit of the purity he has put around us in Christ.

First Lesson – Malachi 3:1-4

Look at Malachi 3:1. Who is the messenger who will prepare the way before the LORD?

What will the coming of the LORD be like?

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:3-11

What brings Paul joy when he thinks of the Philippian congregation?

What does he want for their lives (and ours) up to the time of Christ's return?

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

In contrast to some of the great men of that era, to whom did the word of the Lord come? Where?

On what did John the Baptist center his preaching?

How had the prophet Isaiah described John's task?

God's Word for This Week: [Answers from last Sunday](#)

First Lesson – Jeremiah 33:14-16

Who is the “righteous Branch” that will sprout from David’s line?

In Jeremiah 23:5-6, the righteous Branch is referring to Jesus and his saving presence on this earth. He is the King who has descended from King David’s line. It is possible here that this same title is being given to the Christian church that grows out of a connection to Jesus.

Who will be called “the LORD our righteousness”?

Although this sounds so similar to the Jeremiah 23 passage, here the Church (Judah and Jerusalem) will receive the same name as Jesus. We will not only be labeled with his perfect righteousness because it covers them but will also be the place other people can find his righteousness through the gospel proclamation. (Is this evident in our purpose?)

Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

What does Paul ask the Lord to do within the Thessalonian congregation?

Paul has already mentioned how the gospel produced among the Thessalonian Christians great evidence of faith, hope, and love (1:3, 3:6). Now Paul prays for more: he not only asks for their inner life to become stronger but that it also will overflow its love on everyone who will come in touch with them. (Do people recognize this happening in you? Your congregation?)

What is Paul’s underlying concern as he prays?

Paul’s concern is that the Thessalonians’ faith is alive and well and that they will be ready to join the holy ones when Christ reappears. (Is this your priority?)

Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

What will it be like right as Jesus reappears at the end of time?

When Jesus reappears, it will terrify people. There will be disturbing signs in the sky, earth, and sea. These will cause many to faint from fear as the heavenly bodies are shaken. (Does the world expect this? Do you?)

How will God’s people react when Jesus returns visibly? (See especially 21:28.)

When God’s people see Jesus coming in his power and glory, they will stand secure, knowing this is the great time when Jesus completes his purpose for us and brings us into his eternal kingdom of freedom. (Is this exciting for you? Do you long for this?)

Because of this, what should our daily lives be like now? (See especially 21:34-36.)

Because Jesus could reappear any day, there is no room for us to be distracted with the anxieties or attractions of this world. We should always be focused and ready to stand before Jesus when he returns.

Compelled by Christ's love, the members of Beautiful Savior glorify God by

***Growing in the faith, Gathering together as believers,
and Going to our neighbors with the gospel***

If you are new to the area or looking for a church to call your own, please accept our invitation to meet our pastor (after the service, or by appointment at your convenience). Please come and worship with us again.

Beautiful Savior is part of a group of more than 1300 churches congregations united by a common faith in Christ’s saving love, called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico & Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work.

We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), and the broader Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

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Pastor Greg Sahlstrom pastor@beautifulsavior.org

<https://wels.net/>

<https://els.org/>

<https://celc.info/>



Sunday, December 12

2:00 PM

Contact Anna Christian for details

annaox505@gmail.com (505) 227-6643

**Past, present, and future
Adult choir members**

If you have missed singing, we have good news! We will be singing twice this month! We sing with the children on December 19th during the Children's Christmas Program and we will sing again on December 24th during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Talk to Kelsey Johnson or Teresa Ennen for more details.

Practices are set for:

- Wednesday, December 8 6:00pm
- Sunday, December 12 after Service/Bible Class
- Saturday, December 18 8:30am
- Sunday, December 19 8:30am



THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR:

Sunday	Dec 5	9:00 AM	Worship (also Zoom, YouTube)
		10:15 AM	Sun. Schl., Pre-Conf., Adult Class (also Zoom)
		5:00 PM	Advent by Candlelight
Wed.	Dec 8	5:00 PM	Teen Confirmation (grades 7 & 8)
		6:30 PM	Advent Vesper Service
Sunday	Dec 12	9:00 AM	Worship w/communion (also Zoom, YouTube)
		10:15 AM	Sun. Schl., Pre-Conf., Adult Class (also Zoom)
		2:00 PM	Christmas Caroling
		4:00 PM	Pre-Call Meeting

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6801341226?pwd=aGJPYzlyK2FSaG5PZndpYoVuNEtDUT09>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOpIwmjcStamZeoTS4GihFw/videos?view=57&flow=grid>

Monday	Dec. 13	6:30 PM	Church Council
Saturday	Dec. 18	9:00 AM	Childrens Christmas Program Practice
Sunday	Dec. 19	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Program
Wed.	Dec. 24	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve. Candlelight Worship

