



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 - 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP (\*please rise in body and/or spirit)

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.**

Lift up your voice with strength, heralds of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the people:

**"Here is your God!" His arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.**

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

**Justice and righteousness will fill the land, and all will live in peace and safety.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient**

**while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with**

**our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may**

**abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

### HYMN:

**"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"**

**#242**

### GREETING

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

**And also with you."**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - TRAVIS & KALEEN PETERSON FAMILY

### ADVENT HYMN:

**"Light One Candle to Watch for the Messiah" (v.3)**

**#240**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]] <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (\*please rise in body and/or spirit) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v.1**

**#257**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter...***Glory to you, O Lord.***

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*Response: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

**"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

**#264**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**(offering plates are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary)**

**OFFERING HYMN:**

**"Wait for the Lord" (sing 3 times)**

**#262**

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!***

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**p. 144**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**p.144**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...we join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

p. 208

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.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

p. 146

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" #247

"He Comes to Us as One Unknown" #737

## DISTRIBUTION

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER (\*please rise in body and/or spirit)

p. 146

### BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### HYMN

"People, Look East"

#248

### SENDING (p. 146)

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

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## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Executive Committee**  
Margaret Dahlberg, President  
Travis Peterson, Vice President  
Tara Anderson, Secretary  
Janet Brown, Treasurer



**GIVE ONLINE**

**We, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, welcome all to share Christ's love, grow in faith, and to live a life of service glorifying God.**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is in given by Janet Brown in honor of the bible study group.

**Could you spare some time on Fridays to help with the Senior Lunch Program?** Dessert—cookies, bars, brownies etc. for 90 are also needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter. A thank you for your help is a free lunch that day! \*11:45-1:30. Help as needed and Kitchen clean up \*Providing treats (Please indicate how many)

**The Community Closet** will have an opening tomorrow, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm Volunteers are needed to help set up today, beginning at 6 pm and to help take down on Monday beginning at 7pm. No need to sign up, just show up. Any and all help is appreciated.

**Vitalant Blood Drive - Sponsored by OSLC:** Tomorrow, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:15 am - 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 pm, at the Stoudt-Miller Showroom (325 Winter Show Road). Contact Vitalant at (877)258-4825 to register to donate. A sign-up sheet will also be posted on the information counter under the Missionary Calendar to donate. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts/receptionists. Contact Ruth Larson at 840-2913 to volunteer.

**We will once again enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" concerts** on Wednesdays during December (Dec 17), from 12:10 - 12:50 in the church sanctuary. During this busy month, take time each week to relax over your lunch hour with some Christmas music. This year the programs will be streamed on Facebook, so you can listen from your workplace or home if you can't get to the church for the concert. Beth Quick will be the featured performer this Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be saying Farewell and Godspeed to Pr. Nicholas** during worship Sunday, December 21, with a celebration and appreciation to follow during the Coffee and Fellowship time. Please come and help us acknowledge Pr. Nicholas' ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

**Valley City Salvation Army Kettle Campaign needs bell ringers** now through December 24<sup>th</sup>. If you can help for any amount of time (1-2 hrs or more). Please call Naomi Schlecht 701-541-1418) or Lenore Ziemba (701-840-1357). Bell ringing locations will be at PetroServe and Leever's.

**The Merry & Bright Carolers** are performing throughout the holiday season. Look for details on the flyers posted around the church.

**St Catherine Church will be holding its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner** on December 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Transportation is available if you call ahead. See flyers posted around the church for details.

**Hymn Requests:** If you have a favorite hymn you would like to see included in a future worship service, please jot the name and number down on the note paper back by the offering plates and place in the offering plate or contact Ann in the office. We don't promise to add it right away, but would do our best to include it in future worship services.

**We're continuing a practice at Our Savior's to be mindful of our prayer for one another.** Each week, staff will be praying for, and congregation members are encouraged to pray for families of the congregation, by name. This week we pray for the Alexander & Megan Jorgensen, Scott & Susan Jorissen, Lori & Terry Justensen, Shane & Katie Kalbrener and Melvin & Judy Karch families. *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1*

**A look ahead at the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

TODAY:        9:00 am | Worship  
                  9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                  10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship  
                  11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast  
                  6:00 pm | Community Closet Set Up

MON:           11:15 am | Blood Drive at Stoudt-Miller Showroom until 6:00 pm  
                  5:00 pm | Community Closet  
                  6:30 pm | PEO

TUES:          8:00 | Blood Drive at Stoudt-Miller Showroom until 12:45 pm  
                  9:00 am | Quilters  
                  10:30 am | Staff Meeting  
                  1:30 pm | Text Study

WEDS:         9:30 am | Bible Study  
                  6:30 pm | Confirmation (at OSLC)  
                  8:00 pm | Sr High Group

SAT:            7:30 am | Men's Bible Fellowship

SUN (12/21): 9:00 am | Worship, Bible Sunday  
                  9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                  10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship, Farewell for Pastor Nicholas  
                  11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast  
                  11:15 am | Worship at St Petri (Nome)