

“LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!”



Here, at The Lutheran Church and School of Messiah, we firmly believe that God has put us right here—on 12th and Teller—for a reason!!!

We hope and trust and love the fact that God has called us into *“Preaching and teaching the truth to His expanding kingdom, reaching out to all!”*

You have probably heard that “location is everything.” And, it is also true in in our spiritual lives. So often, we feel behind or buffeted or surrounded by enemies... but, the reality is that even if we are behind, we look forward in hope. Even if we are buffeted, we are buffeted on faith. And, even if we are surrounded, we are surrounded by the Father’s love.

As we pilgrim through this dark world together, Christ is our center and our guide. And, it is only by our hope in Him that we can be there for others.

How can you be there for others this season? Share your hope. Spread the faith. Surround them with God’s love as we yearn for Christ’s coming in Christmas and on the Last Day to save us.

BUFFETED, BUT ON FAITH

† *Soli Deo Gloria* †

How, when buffeted by grief, can we say, “It is well with my soul”? Modern “faith—rather, spirituality, as many people understand it--will do us *no good* when we are buffeted by life’s storms. It leaves us empty and wanting. But, there is a more helpful faith, *The Faith*--the objective truths the Bible teaches--centered in Jesus Christ.

When we are located on this faith, the teaching of the Word of God, we can say that “It is well with my soul,” even when buffeted by all sorts of emotions.

Opening Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
LSB 338

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

† PREPARATION †

INVOCATION

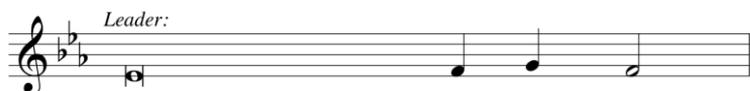
- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION

From Romans 6:15; 20-23; 1 John 1:5-9; John 1:5-14.

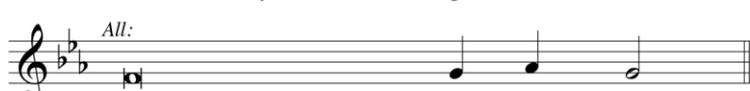
- P What do you say? Should we sin because we are covered by grace and not under the law?
- C **By no means!!!**
- P But, when you were slaves of sin, you were free from the law of God.
- C **That only brought us shame!!! The fruit of sin is always death.**
- P Now that you have been set free from sin and have become servants of God how is it any different?
- C **The fruit of God is eternal life and holiness!!!**
- P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light.
- C **In Him is no darkness at all!!**
- P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- C **But, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.**
- P The blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Leader:



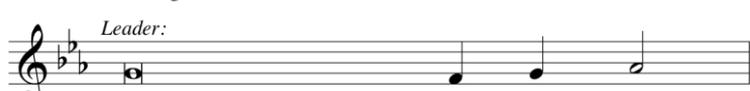
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all of your sins.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His command and His authority, I therefore forgive you

all your sins in the name of the Father and of the †
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Advent Anthem

LSB 348 v.5

**C The King shall come when morn-ing dawns,
And light and beau-ty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray:
Come quick-ly King of kings!**

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

THE FIRST READING

HABAKKUK 2:2-4

²And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.

³For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright
within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 15:1-7

¹We who are strong have an obligation to bear
with the failings of the weak, and not to please
ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his
good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please
himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of
those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For
whatever was written in former days was written for
our instruction, that through endurance and through
the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have

hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 4:35-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence 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.

Sermon Hymn “WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER” LSB 763

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
 When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

ref It is well (It is well)
 with my soul, (with my soul),
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should
 come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
Refrain

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
 My sin, not in part, but the whole,
 Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Refrain

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;

Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

“BUFFETED, BUT ON FAITH”- Pastor Michael Redeker

Advent Anthem

LSB 352 v.1

**C Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has tru-ly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sin-ner’s help and friend.**

Prayers of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

**P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you
peace.**

C Amen.

- 1 The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God’s radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended
Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,
Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God’s salvation
Glows in a stable’s light.
As old as sin’s perversion
Is mercy’s vast design:
God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin’s oppressive might.
- 5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;

Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

**Those Serving In
The Worship Service
December 9th, 2020**

Preacher	Rev. Michael Redeker
Liturgist	Rev. Joshua Schmidt
Organist	Richard Scott
Acolytes	Jonas Ashcraft, Marek Ashcraft
Videographer	Jeremy Knizley