

“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 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.

SURROUNDED

BY THE FATHER'S LOVE

† *Soli Deo Gloria* †

Sometimes we feel so behind and so buffeted that we don't recognize love when it comes to us.

But, through God's Word, the Holy Spirit locates us in the evidences of the Father's love surrounding us.

Opening Hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come" LSB 332 VV 1-4

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

† 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.

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

LEV. 19:1-4, 17-18

¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

³Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

⁴Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy

in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:1-6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C **Glo-ry to You, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

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 “THE ADVENT OF OUR KING” LSB 331

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

STAND 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

“SURROUNDED BY THE FATHER’S LOVE”- REV. MEL MERTENS

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

LSB 166

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.

CLOSING HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come”
LSB 332 VV 5-8

- 5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father’s Son
 Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
 By Your mighty pow’r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

STAND 8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

**Those Serving In
The Worship Service
December 16th, 2020**

Preacher Rev. Mel Mertens
Liturgist Rev. Joshua Schmidt
Organist David Fenske
Acolytes Jonas Ashcraft, Marek Ashcraft
Videographer Jeremy Knizley