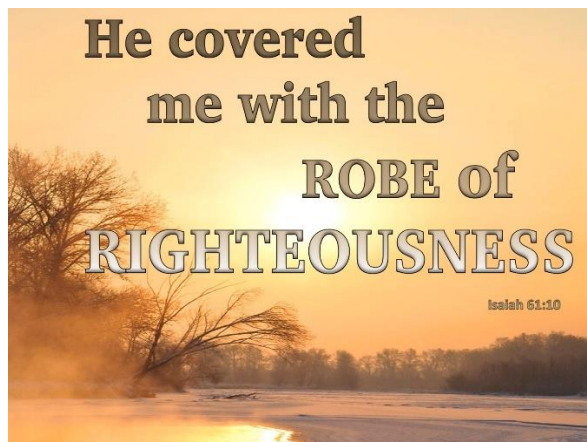


**Advent Midweek Vespers Service
December 20, 2023
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
6:30 p.m.**



1. Welcome

2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution:

Pastor Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Congregation Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Hymn #87 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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.

2 Israel's strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

3 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri

Pastor O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore, Amen.

5. Psalmody Revelation 7:9, 13-17

P After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number,

C From every nation from all tribes and peoples and languages,

P Standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

C Clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

P Then one of the elders addressed me saying,

C “Who are these clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”

P I said to him, “Sir you know.”

C And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation

P They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

C “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;

P And he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

C They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

P The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

C For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

P And he will guide them to springs of living water,

C And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

6. Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

7. A Responsory page 122

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

8. Hymn #432 “Jesus Thy Blood And Righteousness” (verses 1-5,6,8) (Tune, St. Crispin, ELH #403)

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
For who ought to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3 The holy, meek, unspotted Lamb,
Who from the Father's bosom came,
Who died for me, e'en me to atone,
Now for my Lord and God I own.

4 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Forever doth for sinners plead,
For me--e'en for my soul--was shed.

5 Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

6 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
"Jesus hath lived, and died, for me."

8 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

9. Sermon “Cover Me” *Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11*

10. The Offering & Heritage Choir “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

11. The Versicle & Cantic

Pastor Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ **Congregation** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

12. The Nunc Dimittis

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word

For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.

A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

13. The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie

♪ **Congregation** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

14. The Lord's Prayer

♪ **Congregation** 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.

15. Luther's Evening Prayer

Congregation In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

16. The Benedicamus & Benediction

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

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

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

17. Closing Hymn #127 "I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes"

1 I am so glad when Christmas comes, The night of Jesus' birth,
When Beth'lem's star shone as the sun And angels sang with mirth.

2 The little Child of Bethlehem, The King of heavenly grace,
Came down from His exalted throne To save our fallen race.

3 He's now returned to heav'n above, God's Son He is alway;
He ne'er forgets His little ones But hears them when they pray.

4 I too would sing my Savior's praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord;
For He has made me His own child By Water and the Word.

5 I love this precious Christmas Eve And my dear Savior mild,
And I shall not forget the truth: He loves me as His child.

6 I am so glad when Christmas comes: Let anthems fill the air!
He opens wide for ev'ry child His paradise so fair.

Announcements

Christmas Week Worship Schedule –

Christmas Eve Morning – Sunday School Christmas Service at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study – The Monday Evening Bible Class is studying Ecclesiastes. They meet at church at 6:30 pm. Contact Ruth Braun if you would like more information. We will reconvene on January 8th.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study will reconvene after the New Year.

Meditations – The new meditations are available on the welcome stand.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Choir – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. New members are always welcome!



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