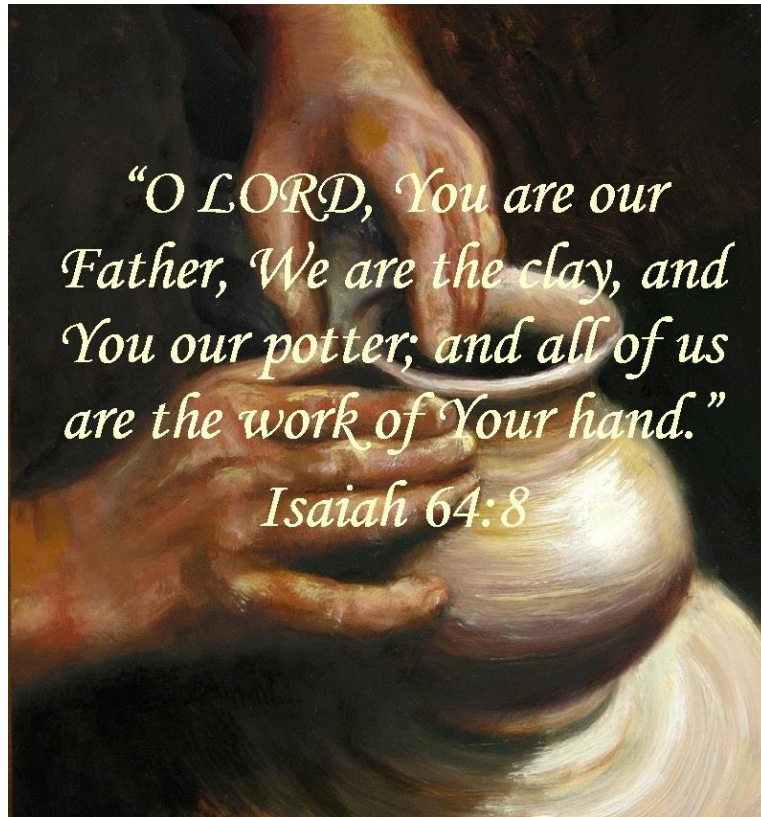


Advent Midweek Vespers Service
December 6, 2023
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
6:30 p.m.



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 #110 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1-3)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

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. Psalm 61 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,

³ for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

⁴ Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*

⁵ For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your
name.

⁶ Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!

⁷ May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over
him!

⁸ So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

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 63:16b-64:8*

^{63:16b} you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. ¹⁷ O LORD, why do you
make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?

Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. ¹⁸ Your holy people held
possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.

¹⁹ We have become like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by
your name. ^{64:1} Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might
quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to
make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at
your presence. ⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God
besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works
righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in

our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

7. A Responsory *page 122*

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

8. Hymn #494 “I Know My Faith Is Founded”

1 I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing
Unmoved I stand upon His Word.
Man's reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts her subtle wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure,
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.

2 Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with Thee beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Thy good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow.
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.

3 In faith, Lord, let me serve Thee;
Though persecution, grief and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain.
And then at my departure
Take Thou me home to Thee,
And let me there inherit
All thou hast promised me.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Thy heav'n I gain,
Where I by Thy great mercy
The end of faith attain.

9. Sermon “You, O Lord, Are Our Father” *Isaiah 64:4-8*

⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

10. The Offering

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 #110 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 4-7)

4 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem;
From every foe deliver them
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

6 O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease;
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)

Announcements

Advent Midweek Worship – Join us at 6:30 pm each Wednesday for our midweek Advent Worship service. We will have a service on the following Wednesdays: December 13th and December 20th. We will have supper before the services at 5:15 pm.

Call Meeting – We will have a call meeting on Sunday, December 17th between services.

TLC Christmas Gathering – Monday, December 18th at Jane Fahning's home (16242 Dutch Barn Drive) at 5:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All women of the congregation are welcome.

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 meet on the 11th of December and then 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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