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**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**December 20, 2023**

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Advent Noon Responsive Prayer.....Luke 1: From John the Baptist to Jesus the Christ

THE OPENING VERSICLE

*Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,*  
**have mercy and hear us.**

THE PSALMODY ~ PSALM 85:7-13 (ANTIPHON: V. 9)

*Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.*

*Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.*

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,**

**for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

*Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.*

**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

*Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.*

**Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

*Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.*

**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.**

*Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

THE APOSTLES' 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.**

## The Reading of God's Word: Luke 1:57-80

Response after the reading:

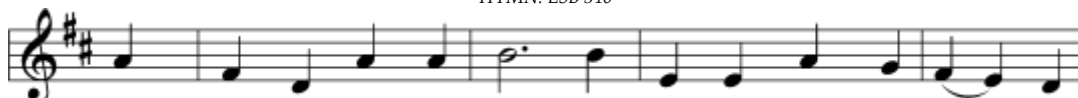
O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

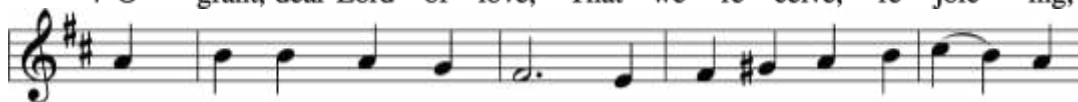
### The Sermon

The Birth of St. John the Baptist

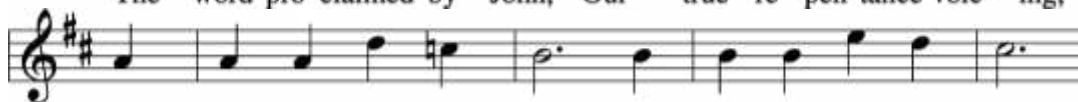
HYMN: LSB 346



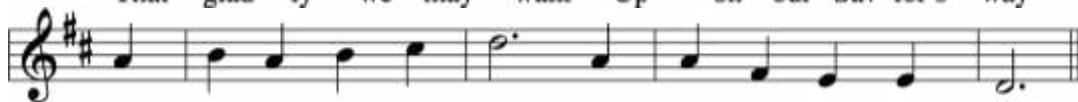
1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,  
2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,  
3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,  
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.  
Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.  
Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.  
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,  
By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,  
Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,  
That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.  
He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:  
Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.  
Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

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### The Consecration

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

## **The Holy Communion**

*All who receive Communion here must first be instructed.*

*Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment.*

*During the distribution, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ and for those in need or meditate on the liturgy, the psalm, and the hymns.*

### THE AFTERNOON LITANY

*Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us Your salvation.*

*Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;  
and let Your saints shout for joy.*

*Lord, keep this nation under Your care,  
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.*

*Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!*

*For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
let my cry come to You.*

### THE COLLECTS

*Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

*Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.***

*Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray You so to guide and govern us by Your Word and Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget You but remember that we are ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.***

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BLESSING

*Let us bless the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.*

**Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TEXT: LSB 344, STANZA 5

△ 5 **All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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Preacher & Celebrant: Rev. Peter Gregory • Organist: Mary Gregory

**Christmas Services, December 24 & 25**

Christmas Eve—Vespers, 4:00 pm • Lessons & Carols, 8:00 pm

Christmas Day—Divine Service, 11:00 am

**The First Sunday of Christmas, December 31**

Divine Service, 10:00 am

*after service, join the Christmas hymn sing*

**Acknowledgments**

Responsive Prayer 1 from Lutheran Service Book

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