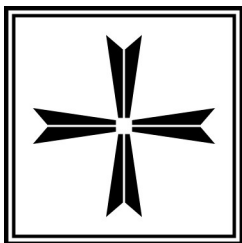




# **READY OR NOT: BRIGHT LIGHTS**

*FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 29, 2015*



# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 29, 2015 | *First Sunday in Advent*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Erik Roberson

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com)

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

It sure is easy for what is urgent to crowd out what is important. That's never truer than this time of year. Even as we urgently get ready for Christmas, we also want to make sure we are prepared for what is important: Christ's second coming. This week, we thank God that he gives us plenty of warnings and signs that remind us that the end is near. Those signs raise our sights to a life after this one and keep us from getting caught up in the sins and stresses of this present age. May his loving reminders always keep us ready for his return.

## BEFORE WORSHIP

*As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Children's Activity Sheets** give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

**Children's Church** is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

## INFORMATION

**Bathrooms** are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

**Looking for more information?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church...

- check out our information table in the entryway,
- Scan the code to the right with your smartphone
- speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com), or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.



**Our Savior Lutheran Church** is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Artwork** by Ian M. Welch. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved.

- **Scripture** is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:

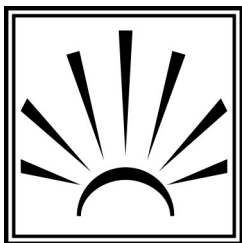
- **Morning Praise**, © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **My Soul in Stillness Waits**, "Text: O Antiphones, adapted. © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Tune, Setting: Marty Haugen, © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **Psalm 25: To You, O Lord**, Marty Haugen. English Translation of the refrain from the Lectionary for Mass, © 1969, ICEL, Inc. All rights Reserved. © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **Prayer of the Church, Advent 1, Year C**, from LetUsPray; [www.lcms.org/letuspray](http://www.lcms.org/letuspray)

- **Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending**, Text: Charles Wesley, Tune: Thomas Olivers, Setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams.



# MORNING PRAISE

"Morning Praise" is based on the historic service called "Matins." Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of this new day.

## GATHERING RITE | *My Soul In Stillness Waits*

~Please stand

**L**eader: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**ongregation: Amen.

*Refrain*

**C** For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,

tru - ly my hope is in you.

1 O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.  
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

*Refrain*

**L** But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate,

**C** and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

**L** From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

**C** Our God comes and will not be silent;

Psalms 50:2-3

**L** A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;

**C** make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

**L** "You heavens above, rain down righteousness;

**C** Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness grow with it;

Isaiah 45:8

2 O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.  
 Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.  
 Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.



## CONFESSION OF SIN

**L** It is God alone who can forgive sins. Let us humble ourselves before Him, and confess our sins to our Lord.

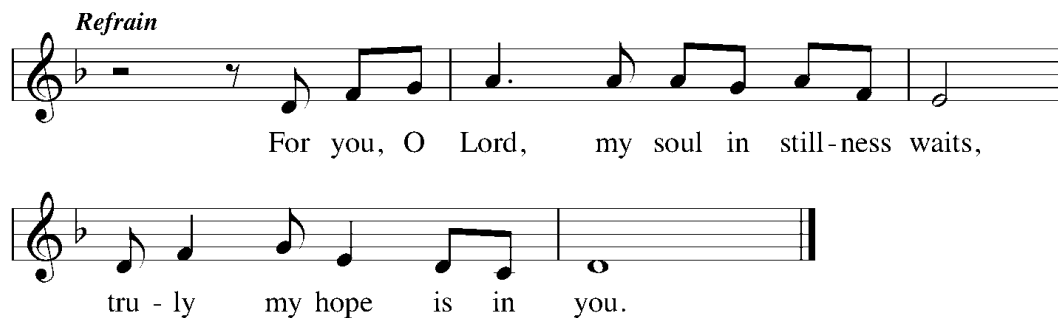
**G** Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that often we have praised You and welcomed You with our lips, but have dishonored and disobeyed You with our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You with our entire lives, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Especially we confess to You the sins of which we are aware, and those that burden our hearts.

*(Silence for personal confession)*

**L** Have mercy on us, O God;

**G** for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us our sins. Bring forth new life in us today and every day, that we may honor and serve You in all things.

3 O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
 And in your advent draw us all to you,  
 Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.




## FORGIVENESS OF SIN

**L** Out of His great love for us, God sent His only Son Jesus into our sinful world, to live in our midst, to die for our sins, and to rise from the dead to give us forgiveness and life. As your called and ordained pastor, at the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen. Come among us, Lord Jesus, and fill us with peace and joy.**

4 O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.  
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

*Refrain*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,  
tru - ly my hope is in you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of eighth and quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff continues with eighth and quarter notes: F#4, E4, D4, C4, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C** **Amen.**

*~Please be seated*

# THE WORD



*The Lord lovingly warns us against looking back.*

## LESSON | *Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29 (pg. 27-28)*

<sup>15</sup>With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.”

<sup>16</sup>When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. <sup>17</sup>As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

<sup>23</sup>By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. <sup>24</sup>Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup>Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. <sup>26</sup>But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

<sup>27</sup>Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup>He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.



## PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalm 25*

As early as the third century, Christians were using Psalm 63 as a morning prayer.



*The leader will introduce the refrain and sing the verses of the song.*

*The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain as indicated.*

**L** Refrain.

**C** Refrain.

*Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths,  
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior. **Refrain.***

*For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing His way to those who seek him,  
gently leading the poor and the humble. **Refrain.***

*To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to his Word, who live his love,  
He will always be near, he will show them his mercy. **Refrain.***

## GOSPEL | *Luke 21:25-36 (pg. 1636)*

*~Please stand*

<sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup> "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

*The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the word of Christ, our King.*

*Signs of Jesus' return keep us from being caught by surprise*

## SEASONAL RESPONSE

**☐ The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

*~Please be seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.*

*During the singing of the hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### HYMN | #2 *Savior Of the Nations Come*

*The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.*

### SERMON | *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

# YOU ARE GOD, WE PRAISE YOU | *Te Deum*

## REFRAIN



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

## Verses



- [L] 1. With the an - gels in heav - en,  
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, [C] We praise you, we  
3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim,  
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, We  
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,  
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, We  
You have ris - en to free us;

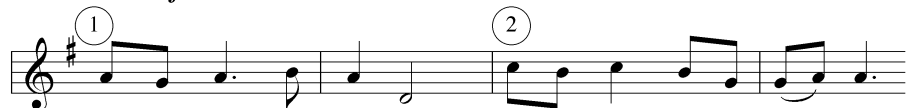


praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your  
To the Trin - i - ty most  
And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church,  
bless - ed, We sing in end - less praise! to Refrain  
glo - ry, to Refrain  
to Final Refrain

## Final Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a-tion of - fers praise, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*~Please stand*

**[L]** Almighty God, we give You thanks for bringing us to the end of one church year and to the beginning of another. As You have kept us in the days that have passed, so do we pray You would keep us in the days to come. Teach us to be faithful in all things, grateful for all Your gifts, urgent in Your work and hopeful for Christ's coming again. Lord, in Your mercy,

**[C] hear our prayer.**

**[L]** Almighty God, we long for an end to the struggles of this mortal life and for the start of everlasting life with Christ and all the saints in Your presence forevermore. Keep us from becoming contented with this life and from despair over the burdens of the flesh. We pray ever more earnestly to see Your face and to know in full the joy of Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**[C] hear our prayer.**

**[L]** Almighty God, we know how easily the good things You have supplied can be abused and used for harm instead of good. Deliver all who struggle with addiction, restore us when we fall and bring us the strength of Your Word and Sacraments to sustain us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**[C] hear our prayer.**

**[L]** Almighty God, we enjoy the many and rich blessings You have showered upon our nation. Grant to us wise and faithful leaders who will help us use Your bounty for good. Establish Your peace among the nations, and bring to nothing the plots of those who delight in evil, terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**[C] hear our prayer.**

**[L]** Almighty God, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief and death, but not without Your grace to comfort us or Your hope to encourage us. Give grace to each as they have need, that sustained through their afflictions they may rejoice in Your promises recalling especially before You this day Your servant Judy Zahn. Lord, in Your mercy,

**[C] hear our prayer.**

**L** Almighty God, we claim nothing as our own, for all things come from You. Accept the worship of our lips, the service of our lives and the tithes and offerings we bring in Jesus' name. Grant that we may use all things for Your glory, for the blessing of those in our care and for the support of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** Almighty God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all things needful and beneficial. Keep far from us all things harmful, that we may be kept holy and blameless to the day of Christ's coming; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY | Kyrie**

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff begins with a common time signature (C) and the lyrics: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics for the fourth staff are: mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

**L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;  
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## **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.**

*~Please be seated*

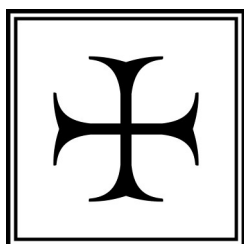
## **HYMN | #1 The Advent Of Our King**

## PRAYER FOR GRACE

~Please stand

**[L]** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**[C]** Amen.



*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*

## BLESSING



**[L]** Let us praise the Lord.



**[C]** Thanks be to God.



**[L]** The Lord bless and keep you.



**[C]** A - men.



**[L]** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**[C]** A - men.



**[L]** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



**[C]** A - men.

~Please be seated

# HYMN | #704 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be -  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his  
 4 Yea, A - men, let all a -



scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner  
 hold him Robed in glo - rious maj - es -  
 pas - sion Still his daz - zling bod - y  
 dore you High on your e - ter - nal



slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand  
 ty; Those who ri - di -  
 bears, Cause of end - less  
 throne. Ev - 'ry knee shall



saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph  
 culed and sold him, Pierced and nailed him  
 ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed  
 bow be - fore you; Come and take your



of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to the tree, Deep - ly wail - ing,  
 wor - ship - ers. With what won - der,  
 peo - ple home! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,  
 With what won - der, With what won - der,  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals his end - less reign.  
 Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.  
 You shall reign and you a - lone!



*[OurSaviorBirmingham.com](http://OurSaviorBirmingham.com)*