



ADVENT DELIVERANCE

December 2, 2012 - *First Sunday in Advent*



A Place to Belong

Pastor Ben Kratz

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Those who serve:

Music / Sound: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Bob Holbrook, Shannon Sikes

DECEMBER 2, 2012

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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 Welcome card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

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

☞ **Your children** are always welcome at Our Savior, no matter how much noise they might make. If your little one is having a difficult morning, please feel free to take them into the entrance hallway.



TODAY'S THEME:

ADVENT DELIVERANCE

The word "Advent" means "coming." During this season, we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming to this world at Christmas. As Christians prepare their hearts to celebrate Christ's birth, we also anticipate his return in glory on the Last Day, when Jesus will come to judge all people and bring deliverance for God's people.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

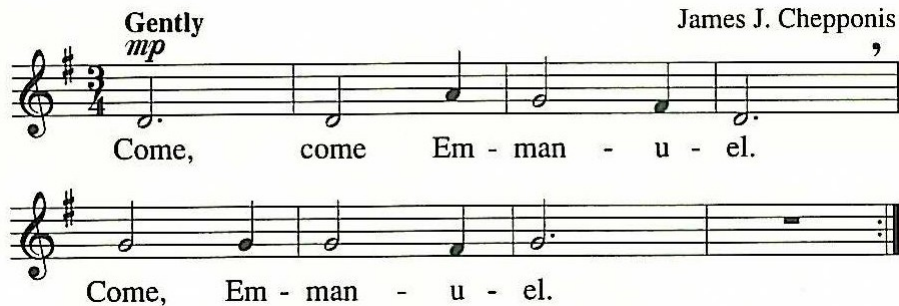
O Lord—our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter—we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

WELCOME FROM PASTOR KRATZ

PLEASE STAND

GATHERING RITE: *Come, Come, Emmanuel*



Verses (sung by the pastor)

God fulfills the promise, so come...

For a shoot from David will come...

Overflowing with love, we come...

May God strengthen our hearts, and come...

For the Son of Man will come...

Oh be watchful, pray always, and come...

GREETING

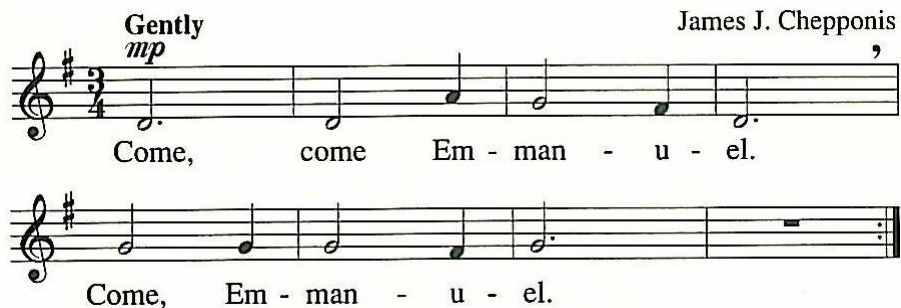
L(eader): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C(ongregation): And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.



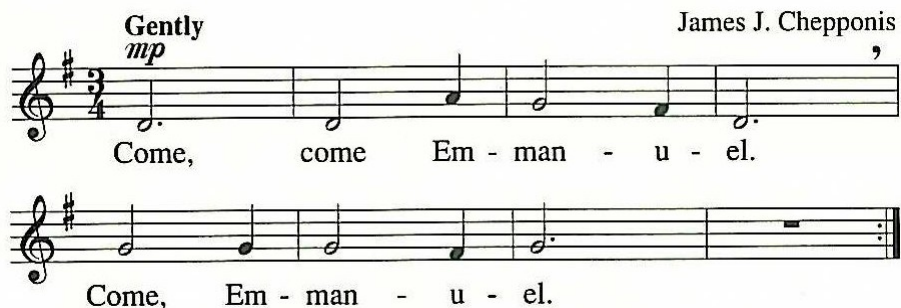
Lord, have mercy upon us and come...

Christ, have mercy upon us and come...

Lord, have mercy upon us and come...

L: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

L: We hear his call to watch.

C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

One Advent candle is lit.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins. We pray this and all things because you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

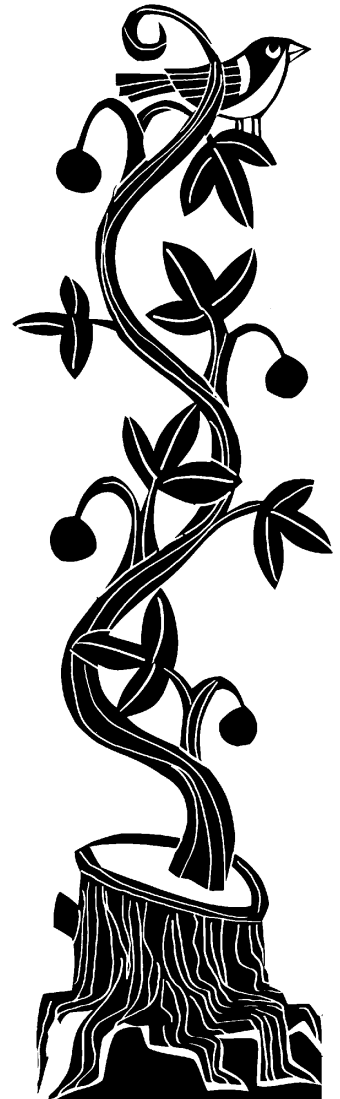
FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Pg. 1232)

The Lord will send the promised Savior through David's family line

¹⁴ “ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

¹⁵ “ ‘In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.’



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 25



*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 in his love,
he will always be near, he will show them his mercy. **Refrain.***

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (Pg. 1839)

Be strong until Jesus comes again

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

VERSE OF THE DAY: Revelation 22:20

REFRAIN



Refrain. *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. **Refrain***

PLEASE STAND

THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 (Pg. 1636)

Your redemption is drawing near

²⁵ “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. ²⁶ Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

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

³⁴ “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. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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.”

After the Gospel, the congregation responds:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children’s message

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: #2 Savior of the Nations, Come

SERMON: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

PLEASE STAND

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

The members of Our Savior Lutheran Congregation have joined together to the Lord's word in this community and around the world. If you are a guest today, you need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

L: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

L: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

L: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

L: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

THE 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: #26 *Jesus Came, the Heaven's Adoring*

PLEASE STAND

L: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

L: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: #21 *Hosanna to the Coming Lord*

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.



About Our Savior...

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a growing church that serves the southern neighborhoods of Birmingham. We are a Christian church that is looking forward to serving people with God's Word.

Our Savior's message is a wonderful message for you. Our theme is "***A Place to Belong.***" That means that because of our Savior's love for you, you belong to him. You belong to his family. His love will always outweigh the wrongs you have done and the sadness you have had! Our loving God always loves us more.

If you are new to the area or looking for a church home, accept our invitation to meet our pastor and find out more about us. Besides weekly worship, we also offer Bible class to individuals and groups of all ages, Christian counseling, and literature. Please come and worship with us again! Think of this as your community church, and know that you are welcome to join us here anytime.

We hope you find Our Savior "A Place to Belong!"

Benjamin Kratz, Pastor

(205) 478-6843 [cell]

(205) 618-9065 [home]

Announcements

☞ **Welcome to guests and visitors!** We are glad that you are here, and hope that you will join us again soon!

☞ **Spiritual Growth Opportunities:**

Sunday Bible Class: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.* Our Sunday Bible class is working through a study on the relationship between Church and State.

Sunday School: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.* Our Sunday school, which uses the award-winning Christ-Light curriculum, offers Bible lessons for children from nursery age through grade 12.

Wednesday Bible Class: *Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.* The Wednesday night class is taking a break until 2013.

Bible Class for Beginners: *Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm.* Don't feel like you know enough about the Bible to attend a regular Bible class? Join us for this class designed especially for you! We will be taking a look at some of the important chapters of the Bible to learn not only the truths of God's Word, but how it all fits together!

☞ **FaithBuilders Class:** People often say the Bible is hard to understand. However, if we understand the four key concepts of the Bible, things become much clearer since we realize every page of the Bible deals with one of the key concepts. Those key concepts are sin, grace, faith, and works. FaithBuilders covers these and other topics to help you gain an understanding of the central message of God's Word: Jesus Christ has saved us from sin and given us new life. FaithBuilders is for people interested in becoming members of Our Savior, or for people just looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. **Classes are held every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm.**

☞ **Looking to serve?** Were you greeted by a warm smile as you entered the service today? Would you like to bless someone with your smile on an upcoming Sunday, or put yourself to work in other ways make our guests feel welcome? Then why not serve as an usher or greeter next week? For most of these, just show up about 10:00 am and be ready to smile, shake someone's hand or help serve some coffee and snacks. Contact Pastor Kratz at Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com or 677-8642 for more information about serving opportunities.

☞ **Keep in Your Prayers This Week.** God promises us that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. He also tells us to pray for one another. Hearing God's powerful promises, confidently bring these requests to the throne of our heavenly Father: *(If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Kratz.)*

The families who care for their loved ones, as they quietly bear heavy burdens of love and concern.

Those who have long been absent from hearing the Word. May God bless our efforts to call these fellow members of our family of faith— *I rejoiced with those who said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'.*

☞ **Looking for more information or interested in exploring membership at Our Savior?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

☞ **Acknowledgements:**

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This Week at Our Savior

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|---|--------|----------|--|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | FaithBuilders 7:00 pm | | Bible Class for Beginners 7:00 pm | | | Sunday School/ Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am |

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------------------------------|--|---|--------|----------|--|
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | FaithBuilders 7:00 pm | Midweek Advent Worship 7:00 pm | Bible Class for Beginners 7:00 pm | | | Sunday School/ Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am |

🔗 Upcoming Schedules

Flowers: 12/9: CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
 12/16: CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
 12/23: CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Cleaning: December: Family B (Burkart/Boyce-Sauer/Elliott/Griffin/Kratz)

Nursery / Children's Church: 12/9: Yauney Sikes
 12/16: Miriam Roberson
 12/23: Emily Kratz



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

