

Keep Watch!

First Sunday in Advent
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Roanoke, Virginia
November 29, 2020
10 a.m.

Welcome

Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!

Wouldn't we all be excited if we received a call from heaven's advance office telling us to expect a personal visit from Jesus in a few weeks! We'd be scurrying around, cleaning the house, pulling out our best recipes, finally finishing the painting in that bedroom closet. We would want everything ready and perfect for when Jesus came.

Jesus is coming, and he could be here in less than a week. We don't have to worry about our homes being all cleaned up for Jesus. Our more pressing concern is – are we ready for Jesus?

During these next few weeks, we'll be sitting at the feet of our Father in heaven, asking him to work in our hearts to make sure we are ready for Jesus to come. His message this morning is a strong but Fatherly "Be awake! Keep watch!"

Guests, thank you for letting us share Jesus' love with you this morning! We'll do our best to make you feel welcome and at home with friends. Please come back and learn more about the extraordinary love our God has for all of us!

Our Worship

Our entire worship service is printed out in this worship folder to make it easy to follow. The **congregation speaks the parts in bold** while the pastor speaks the parts in plain type.

Participate in the worship service as much or as little as you like. More than anything we want you to feel comfortable here so you can take to heart the main message—Jesus gave his life to give us real life.

We enjoy having children in worship because Jesus gave his life for them too. If you feel like they need a break, we do have a quiet nursery with a video feed from our worship. Our nursery is across the hallway from worship. You'll find signs just outside the double doors.

Restrooms

The restrooms are located just outside the double doors in the rear of the worship area. Just follow the signs.

We enter God's presence

JESUS, YOUR CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES – HYMN 9



1. Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
2. E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
3. Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
4. Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
5. Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised light a -
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure we re -
give, our foes su - press, Our root - ed en - mi - ty sub -
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to your com -
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your grace to



rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

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

And also with you.

Confession and forgiveness

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

Praise and prayer

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you down to me.
Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your souls dis - tress;



Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my li - ber - ty.
Your guilt the Lord has par - doned And cov - ered by his grace.



Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing That led you to em - brace
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n,



In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
His chil - dren thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, CW 19

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.



A - men.

God speaks to our hearts

Genesis 6:1-3, 5-14, 17-22

Noah's neighbors would be caught sleeping as they embraced their sin and neglected their Savior.

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the account of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him. NIV

PSALM 24



1. The earth and all that dwell there - in, With all its
 2. O who shall stand be - fore the Lord On Zi - on's
 3. O ev - er - last - ing doors give way; Lift up your
 4. Who is this glo - rious King that comes To sit u -



wealth un - told, Be - longs to God, who
 ho - ly hill? The clean of hand, the
 heads, O gates! For now be - hold to
 pon the throne? The Lord of hosts, our



found - ed it U - pon the seas of old.
 pure of heart, The just who do God's will.
 en - ter in, The King of glo - ry waits.
 glo - rious King, Is God on High a - lone.

Sung to the tune of CW 12

1 Peter 3:18-22

The waters of the Flood pictured how the waters of Baptism saves us to this day. Keep watch!

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. NIV

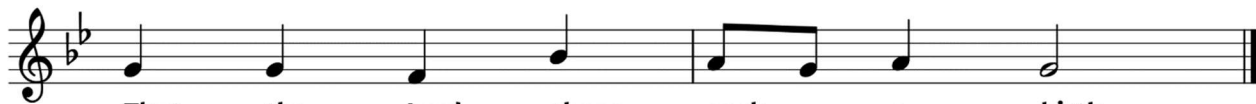
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME – HYMN 2



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's Son, make
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the vir - gin
4. From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as - cend - ed
5. Praise to God the Fath - er sing, Praise to God the



here your home. Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God Was the Word of God made flesh,
un - de - filed, Though by all the world dis - owned,
to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell
Son, our King, Praise to God the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
High the song of tri - umph swell!
E - ver and e - ter - nal - ly.

Sermon: Mark 13:32-37

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ” NIV

Keep watch!

We respond to God's grace

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Offering

After worship, you may place your offering in the basket near the bookshelves of hymnals in the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

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

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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For all our unasked needs we pray:

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.

RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY – HYMN 472



1. Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak - en!
2. Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat you
3. Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri - fle;
4. But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas - ing.



Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a har - vest
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less friends to
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your hopes to
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u - nite to



reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
charm you Who but seek to harm you.
shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
serve him And for - ev - er love him.

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.



The Lord's blessing

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.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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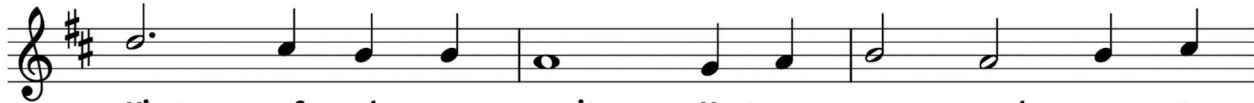
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Disclaimer and release: We now have a camera facing the congregation's faces as they express their joy at our Father's mercy in sending us his Son. By worshipping with us, you give us permission to use pictures of you worshipping with us in our internet broadcast of the service to those who could not attend, and release us from liability for that use. We thank you for that permission.

ZION, AT YOUR SHINING GATES – HYMN 701



1. Zi - on, at your shin - ing gates, See, the
 2. Christ, your king - dom comes to - day As we
 3. Come and give us peace with - in, Loose us
 4. Give us grace your yoke to wear, Give us
 5. So when you shall come a - gain, Lord of



King of glo - ry waits; Haste your mon - arch now to
 hear your Spir - it say: "God's own Son, a sac - ri -
 from the bands of sin, Take a - way the heav - y
 strength your cross to bear, Make us yours in deed and
 an - gels and of men, We with all your saints shall



greet, Spread your palms be - fore his feet.
 fice Sin - ners' way to par - a - dise."
 weight Laid on us by greed and hate.
 word, Yours in heart and life, O Lord.
 sing Loud ho - san - nas to our King.



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Calendar

Today	10 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Sunday school
Wednesday	9:30 am	Bible study
	7 pm	Bible study
Next Sunday	10 am	Worship and communion
	11:30 am	Sunday school
	Noon	Voters' meeting

	Serving this weekend	Serving next weekend
Pastor	Paul Workentine	Paul Workentine
Music	Rob	Betsy
Greeters	Holly	Tricia
Ushers	Josh	Greg
Flowers		
Cleaning		Tom & Rachel
Snacks	Eileen	Sharon & Vonnie
Video	Jill	Jill



Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of the WELS, a nation-wide organization of church families dedicated to sharing God's love with people around the world.