

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church



*Gaudete*  
Third Sunday in Advent  
16 December 2012



James Tissot (1836-1902), *Sur la montagne Jésus guérit les aveugles et les boiteux*

**The blind receive their sight and the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the  
dead are raised up, and the poor have good news  
preached to them**

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### **A note to visitors**

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastoral visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

### **The Offering**

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

### **Children in the Service**

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of

God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

### **Holy Communion**

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, '*Why Closed Communion?*', which is available at the back of the church.

**Thank you for honouring our beliefs.**

### ***A note on the service:***

*Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.*

*The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.*

*It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.*

### ***Explanation of Symbols:***

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

**Divine Service IV**

**LSB 203**

**334** *Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*  
**203** *Confession and Absolution*

## Catechism

- P** The Lord's Supper: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
- C** These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins", show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.
- P** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins". These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins".

*Introit* (Ps. 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4–5)



- A** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.  
Let your reasonableness be known  
to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.
- C** LORD, you were favourable | to your land;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
- A** You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.
- C** Will you not revive | us again,\*  
that your people may re- | joice in  
you?
- A** 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.
- C** ❖ *Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* \*  
*and to the Holy | Spirit,*  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen
- A** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.
- C** Let your reasonableness be known  
to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

## 204 Kyrie

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel

## 205 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

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.

## 205 **The Readings**

### *John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord*

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, “*Are you the one who is to come . . .?*” (Matt. 11:2). Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The “*stewards of the mysteries of God*” (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

## **Old Testament—Isaiah 40:1–11**

**40** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD’s  
hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:  
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the  
LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for  
our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be re-  
vealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the  
field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand  
forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;



to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before  
your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup> Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ

*206 The Nicene Creed*

**Sup 6 Hymn: On Jordan's Bank the  
Baptist's Cry**

**Sermon**

*Prayer of the Church*

**Offering**

**630 Hymn: Now, My Tongue, the Mystery  
Telling**

*208 The Service of the Sacrament*

*212 Blessing*

**917 Hymn: Saviour, again to Thy Dear  
Name We Raise**

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**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Members**

Ron, Forbes, Dot, Frank

**Family of members**

Lucy, Diana (old age); Megan (pregnancy); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (cancer)

**Friends of members**

Ilse Kelly (old age); Paul (homeless); Marie & family (distress); Brian & Kay (distress); Mike (health); Kayleigh & unborn child (health); Cynthia (health); Claire and Phil (health); Pauline (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob

(depression); Debra (depression); Dave (mental illness); Claire (leukemia); Brian, Jan & family (cancer); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Graham (tumour); Ronnie (cancer); Lisa & children (cancer); Steve (cancer); Carol (cancer); Baby Thomas (operation); Christine (recovering from operation); John & family of †Helen

## **ELCE**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church; Bristol Lutheran Mission; Pr. Bessel; ELCE Central Office; International Lutheran Council; Boor family (St. Andrew's)

## **The Church of God**

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; St. Columba CofE

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**  
**THE LARGE CATECHISM**  
**PART I: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**  
**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

Here we have again the Word of God whereby He would encourage and urge us to true noble and sublime works, as gentleness, patience, and, in short, love and kindness to our enemies, and would ever remind us to reflect upon the First Commandment, that He is our God, that is, that He will help, assist, and protect us, in order that He may thus quench the desire of revenge in us.

This we ought to practise and inculcate, and we would have our hands full doing good works. But this would not be preaching for monks; it would greatly detract from the religious estate, and infringe upon the sanctity of Carthusians, and would even be regarded as forbidding good works and clearing the convents. For in this wise the ordinary state of Christians would be considered just as worthy, and even worthier, and everybody would see how they mock and delude the world with a false, hypocritical show of holiness, because they have given this and other commandments to the winds, and have esteemed them unnecessary, as though they were not commandments, but mere counsels; and have at the same time shamelessly proclaimed and boasted their hypocritical estate and works as the most perfect life, in order that they might lead a pleasant, easy life, without the cross and without patience, for which reason, too, they have resorted to the cloisters, so that they might not be obliged to suffer any wrong from any one or to do him any good. But know now that these are the true, holy, and godly works, in which, with all the angels, He rejoices, in comparison with which all human holiness is but stench and filth, and, besides, deserves nothing but wrath and damnation.

Paragraphs 195–198

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### The Week Ahead

Today	12.15 am	Advent drinks at the Parsonage
19 Dec	12.30am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2pm	Carol Singing (Willow Tree Lodge)
	3pm	Carol Singing (Merry Hall)
	7pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
22 Dec	10.30am	Carols round the tree, Highlands Road
	4pm	Finnish Carol Service (Holy Trinity)
23 Dec	10am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	11.15am	Children's Carol Service

### Further ahead

24 Dec	11pm	Midnight Mass (Scout Hall)
25 Dec	10am	Christmas Morning Divine Service (Scout Hall)
30 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)
5 Jan	<i>tbc</i>	Confirmation Service (Brighton Lutheran Mission) — <i>tbc</i>

### **Next Sunday's Readings:**

***Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28***

### **Daily Readings:**

Sun: Isaiah 32:1-20 Revelation 4:1-11 *Large Catechism I: 129-140*

Mon: Is 33:1-24 Rev 5:1-14 *LC I: 141-149*

Tue: Is 34:1-2, 8-35:10 Rev 6:1-17 *LC I: 150-157*

Wed: Is 40:1-17 Rev 7:1-17 *LC I: 158-166*

Thu: Is 40:18-41:10 Rev 8:1-13 *LC I: 167-178*

Fri: Is 42:1-25 Rev 9:1-12 *LC I: 179-188*

Sat: Is 43:1-24 Rev 9:13-10:11 *LC I: 189-198*