

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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Populus Zion (Second Sunday of Advent) 6 December 2015

Hymns: 331, 336, 334, 659

Catechism Reading

P What is the Office of the Keys?

C **The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.**

P Where is this written?

C **This is what St John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."**

P What do you believe according to these words?

C **I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Volunteer Rota

Today: Music: David—Sunday School: Sarah—Teas: Diane
Next week: Music: Calvin—Sunday School: Diane—Teas: Dot

In Our Prayers

Members

Ron; Frank

Family of members

Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family;
Roly (dementia); Jane (mental health);
John (health); Philip (health); Rita Anniss
(health); Claire Anniss (health)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Trevor (unemployed);
Gus & Mae (health); Claire & Phil
(health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast
cancer); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Rob
(depression, cancer); Richard (mental
health); Bob Waters (cancer); Geoff

(cancer); Sally (health); Leanne (health);
Gina & family; Roger (cancer); Bobbie
(health); Tim (health); Sarah & family
(cancer); Rita Janes (cancer); Caroline
Deans (cancer)

ELCE

St. David Lutheran Church, Pr.
Naumann; ELCE Salary Review
Committee, Nominations Committee;
Wendy Nicolson (cancer)

The Church of God

Living Word Church Fareham; Lutherans
in Africa, Pr. James May; Somali Christian
Mission, Mohamed Gurhan

HYMN OF THE DAY: LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING (LSB 336)

Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was an extremely prolific hymn-writer. It has been claimed that he wrote over 6,000 hymns in his life-time. Be that as it may, he is nevertheless one of the most productive writers of hymns in Christian history, and his finest hymns are very fine indeed.

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending is one of Wesley's finest. It is based on an earlier, longer hymn by a friend of the Wesleys, John Cennick. Like so many of his hymns, it is full of biblical imagery—in this case, the key bible passage is Revelation 1:7: “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” It is an eloquent expression of the joyful anticipation with which Christians can look forward to Christ's return to judge the living and the dead.

HELMSLEY has been the melody usually associated with this text ever since the two were put together by John Wesley in a collection of hymns in 1765, seven years after the original publication of the text.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION ARTICLE IV: JUSTIFICATION

While sanctification has begun and is growing daily, we expect that our flesh will be destroyed and buried with all its uncleanness. Then we will come forth gloriously and arise in a new, eternal life of entire and perfect holiness. For now we are only half pure and holy. So the Holy Spirit always has some reason to continue His work in us through the Word. He must daily administer forgiveness until we reach the life to come. At that time there will be no more

forgiveness, but only perfectly pure and holy people. We will be full of godliness and righteousness, removed and free from sin, death, and all evil, in a new, immortal, and glorified body.

You see, all this is the Holy Spirit's office and work. He begins and daily increases holiness upon earth through these two things: the Christian Church and the forgiveness of sin. But in our death He will accomplish it altogether in an instant and will forever preserve us therein by the last two parts of the Creed.

Now this is the article of the Creed that must always be and remain in use. For we have already received creation. Redemption, too, is finished. But the Holy Spirit carries on His work without ceasing to the Last Day. For that purpose He has appointed a congregation upon earth by which He speaks and does everything. For He has not yet brought together all His Christian Church or granted all forgiveness. Therefore, we believe in Him who daily brings us into the fellowship of this Christian Church through the Word. Through the same Word and the forgiveness of sins He bestows, increases, and strengthens faith. So when He has done it all, and we abide in this and die to the world and to all evil, He may finally make us perfectly and forever holy. Even now we expect this in faith through the Word..

Paragraphs 57-62

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Church Rota

There's a new rota on the notice board at the back. It's not very full at the moment. If you are able to volunteer for any of the volunteer tasks (teas, operating the laptop for music, teaching Sunday school), please add your name.

Training is available for all the relevant tasks – even tea-making!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

This week

Today	3 pm	Finnish carol service at St. Francis, Funtley
	6 pm	Youth Club
Wed	10.30 am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	2 pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
	7 pm	Lenten Vespers (St. Francis)
Sun	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30 pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission

Next Month

16 Dec	10.30 am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7 pm	Lenten Vespers (St. Francis)
20 Dec	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	6 pm	Youth Club (tbc)
22 Dec	11 am	Christmas Carols at Merry Hall
	2:30 pm	Christmas Carols at Willow Tree Lodge
23 Dec	7 pm	Lenten Vespers (St. Francis)
24 Dec	11 pm	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
25 Dec	10 am (tbc)	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
27 Dec	10 am (tbc)	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	3 pm	Bible study at Oxford Mission (tbc)
	4.30 pm	Divine Service at Oxford Mission (tbc)

Daily Readings:

Sun: Isaiah 14:1-23 2 Peter 3:1-18 *Large Catechism I:41-48*

Mon: Is 24:1-13 1 John 1:1-2:14 *LC I:49-58*

Tue: Is 24:14-25:12 *Obadiah 1-21* 1 John 2:15-29 *LC I:59-68*

Wed: Is 26:1-19 1 John 3:1-24 *LC I:69-77*

Thu: Is 26:20-27:13 1 John 4:1-21 *LC I:78-86*

Fri: Is 28:14-29 2 *John 1-13*; 3 *John 1-15* 1 John 5:1-21 *LC I:87-95*

Sat: Is 29:1-14 Jude 1-25 *LC I:96-102*

Sun: Is 29:15-30:14 Revelation 1:1-19 *LC I:103-111*