

# Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave. O'Fallon, IL 62269  
(618) 632-0126  
www.mybslc.org  
Worship – 9:30 am.

Rev. Vernon Lintvedt, Pastor  
Assisting: Pastor Akoh Daniel Kofi  
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 17, 2023**

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec 24 – Advent 4 (9:30 AM)  
Christmas Eve Family (7:00 PM)  
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion (11:30 PM)  
Dec 31 – New Year's Eve Celebration Service (9:30 AM)  
Pastor Vern's Retirement Reception (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)  
KC Hall – 402 E. Hwy 50, O'Fallon, IL



## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 40:1–3*

P: I waited patiently for the LORD;  
C: **He inclined to me and heard my cry.**  
  
P: He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
C: **and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**  
  
P: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
C: **Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

P: That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.  
  
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor pronounces the Forgiveness of sins

## SHARING THE PEACE

## SONG OF PRAISE

“In Christ Alone”

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers. Embolden our witness to the true light that overcomes our darkness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

(The Lord's righteousness will “sprout up before all the nations.”)

## EPISTLE

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

(Rejoice always.)

**VERSE**        *Matthew 11:10b*

P:        Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
C:        **who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**        *John 1:6–8, 19–28*        (The testimony of John the Baptist)

P:        The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
C:        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

P:        This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C:        **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN No. 829**        “Christ the Eternal Lord”. (vss.1, 3 & 4)

**SERMON**        “Witness to the Light” John 1:6-8        Pastor Vern

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**        THE NICENE CREED        *Please stand*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom  
will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**PREFACE**

P:        The Lord be with you.  
C:        **And also with you.**

P:        Lift up your hearts.  
C:        **We lift them to the Lord.**

P:        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C:        **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

### WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C:** And also with you.

### AGNUS DEI

*(p.180 in hymnal)*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;**  
**Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### DISTRIBUTION

"Jesus, You Are My Life"  
LSB 357 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P:** Let us pray.  
Gracious Lord, Your Word says to us: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

**C:** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

**P:** We joyfully give You thanks for the blessings offered to us in the body and blood of our Savior.

**C:** May we go forth to witness to others of the wonders He has done!

**P:** We pray in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### BLESSING OF THE LORD

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

**HYMN No. 349**      “Hark the Glad Sound” (vss. 1 & 4)

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev’ry voice a song.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name.**

**SENDING**

**L:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**C:**      **Thanks be to God!**

