

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

5631 N Adams Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Phone: 248.646.5041
Website: www.blscmi.org

Sunday Worship Schedule
9:00 – Traditional
11:15 – Contemporary style
3rd Sunday of the month at 10:15—
Service of the Word for Wholeness

Seven Churches of Revelation

“Smyrna – The Suffering Church”

11:15— July 7, 2024

The letter in Revelation to the church in Smyrna encourages the church to stay strong in the face of suffering, poverty, and persecution. Members of the congregation went through intense trials, and often martyrdom, for believing in Jesus Christ.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

“Even If”

MercyMe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

“Everlasting God”
“Breathe”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of Wisdom, teach us the lesson of the letter to the church in Smyrna. May we be encouraged and stay strong in the face of suffering, poverty, and persecution we experience for believing in Jesus Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 1:17b-18

Anne Oliver

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: (Jesus said,) **“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.”**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

A: The first reading according to Isaiah, the forty-fourth chapter.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 2:8-11

A: The second reading according to the book of Revelation, the second chapter.

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: ⁹ I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days

you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor

SONG OF THE DAY

“Blessed Be Your Name”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Anne Oliver

A: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the wellbeing of every living thing. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them health and renewal (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

STEWARDSHIP READING

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

OFFERING

"Oceans/You Make Me Brave"

Vocalists: Marilyn Lochner and Kelly Newell

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"I Will Trust in You"

DISMISSAL

Seven Churches of Revelation

*The Book of Revelation opens
with seven letters to seven
churches. These letters
still speak to us today.*

SUNDAYS
9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
June 23 - Aug. 11

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