

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”

9:00—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 *“All Who Hunger Gather Gladly”*

Raymond H. Haan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Lord of all Hopefulness” v. 1, 2, 4

ELW 765

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

THE GREETING

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.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 1:17b-18

Louise Green

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 VERSE

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the verse: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with rests, and are accompanied by a simple bass line.

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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Children’s Worship Coordinator

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When Peace Like a River” v. 1, 2, 4

ELW 785

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.
- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: God has made us God's own people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Louise Green

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.

CHORAL OFFERING

"Refuge and Strength"

Mark Hayes

With Chicago Road Brass Flutist: Lisa Wade Accompanist: Joe Walters

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

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

J. Wayne Kerr

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together let us pray:

C: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song" v. 1, 3, 4

ELW 763

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| 1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing? | 3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing? |
| 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing? | |

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Fred Bock