

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

An outline of today's sermon

"UNHEARD OF KING"

Text: Luke 19:37 "When he came near the place the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God with loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."

INTRODUCTION – Until Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, no one had ever heard of a king that came in the name of the Lord. Kings usually come in their own name, for they are at the top of the food chain. No soldiers, no weapons, no escorts were part of his parade. This king is different. He actually said that he came to serve, not to be served, to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to free us from our sin!

- 1 – A typical triumphal entry.
- 2 – Pomp and power and luxury.
- 3 – A king that came in the name of the Lord.
- 4 – The parade **preceded** the conquest.
- 5 – The power of this king is in his love.
- 6 – The subjects of this king are called "family".
- 7 – This is the king we were waiting for.

CONCLUSION – Ancient kings made much of their triumphal entries into the cities they had just conquered. There was even an organized program that prepared them for the arrival of the royal. This program was called "adventus". Today we begin our Advent, to prepare our hearts for the coming of the King of Kings, our dear Lord Jesus. We do not prepare ourselves for the celebration of his birth, but we prepare our heart for his return in glory, on the Last Day.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, “*a righteous Branch*” descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts “*blameless in holiness before our God and Father*” (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be “*distress of nations in perplexity,*” with “*people fainting with fear.*” Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: “*Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*” (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).

SERVICE AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

ADVENT SERVICES AND FELLOWSHIP Our midweek Advent services will be held on December 5, 12, and 19. The wonderful extra services also provide extra fellowship opportunities with light meals. Please consider signing up for soup or for kitchen help. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will take a look at the first three centuries of Christianity. What happened after Jesus ascended into heaven? Who led the Church? Come and join us at 9:15AM in the Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is led by Pastor Sander at 6:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. Any early risers are welcome!

TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY meets every Tuesday at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall and is focusing on the book “*Altogether Beautiful-A Study of Song of Songs*”. All ladies are welcome to join us! If you have small children at home, you are more than welcome to bring them along!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY We will not meet during the month of December as we focus on Advent and Christmas. Classes will begin again on Wednesday, January 9th. We will be studying 1st & 2nd Corinthians. All are invited to attend as we read and discuss Holy Scriptures and applications for our daily life. The class meets from 7:00PM until 8:00PM each Wednesday.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Pastor Sander leads this Bible Study on the *Old Testament* at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall, currently studying the book of *Psalms*. Everyone is welcome.

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

OUR SPECIAL MISSIONS for the fourth quarter will be ministry to the deaf. Our South Wisconsin District has only two pastors that minister to the deaf: Pastors John Reinke and Bud Palmer. They struggle mightily, but always overcome. Our support for their work is very important!

DID YOU KNOW? A novice asked Mother Teresa, “How can you pick up those dirty, old people on the street and wash them?” Mother Teresa said, “Every one of them is Jesus in a different disguise.”

CRAM THE CUBBIES FOOD DRIVE Our preschool and Sunday School students are participating in a “Cram The Cubbies” Food Drive. Our lower level has quite the cubby space and we are collecting non-perishable food items during the months of November and December to stuff the cubbies. The food that is collected will be donated to the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Last year we were able to donate almost 2,000 pounds of food. If you would like to help out this cause please bring in non-perishable food items and place them in the box in the narthex!

MISSION TREE The former mitten tree is in the Narthex. All types of new or gently used, clean warm clothing are needed: boots or sturdy shoes, coats, jackets, heavy socks, sweaters, warm undergarments and blankets, as well as mittens, scarves, hats and gloves. Infant to adult sizes are needed. As you bring out your winter clothing, if you find any of these items you no longer use, remember they will be greatly appreciated by others.

CHURCH INFORMATION

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES New offering envelopes for 2019 have been placed in your mailbox. Envelopes for families with three or more boxes have been placed on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to only use your 2018 envelopes throughout the month of December and begin using the new envelopes in January.

POINSETTIAS are available for purchase to beautify the altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may place your order on the church sign-up sheet through December 5th. Thank you.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING will take place on Dec. 9th to ratify the second vote on combining the preschool and church budgets. The meeting will be held in Oswald Hall at 11:30AM, following the second service.

KRINGLE SALES It's time for your yearly dose of tasty treats! The youth will be sitting at the table in the hallway, selling Racine Kringles, cookie dough, pizza, coffee and more! Everything will be delivered on Monday, December 17 (just in time for Christmas!), so stop by throughout the month of November to order your goodies!

SCRIP Don't forget to keep SCRIP in mind for all your holiday shopping! From everyday items at grocery stores and gas stations, to gift cards for all the special people in your life, we have a gift card for just about every need! There is a large selection of cards that can be purchased on site at the table in the hallway, and an even larger selection that is available through our order forms.

FACEBOOK As we enter into a busier than usual season, you'll want to stay up to date on everything going on! Please "like" us on Facebook! This is a great way to be in the know in addition to our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT DINNER This annual celebration of our dear Savior's birth takes place on Tuesday, December 4th in the Church Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets are available for purchase after church services by the Women's Ministries bulletin board. All women confirmation age and up are invited.

YOUNG @ HEART Seniors, join us for our Christmas fun on December 13 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. St. Nicholas (David Wiedenkiller) will tell us about the Patron Saint of Giving - the forerunner of Santa Claus. We will be treated with a lunch made by our own Blessed Savior 'chef', Bruce Diener. Don't miss this event. Sign up on the bulletin board so we know how much food to prepare.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM You are invited to a special service on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 pm to listen as the Sunday school children tell us the story of Christmas through song. Join us as we sing all our favorite Christmas hymns and tell the story of Jesus!

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE Sunday, December 16th, after each church service in the Fellowship Hall. As you plan for your holiday baking please keep the Bake Sale in mind, donating some of your delicious treats, the sale of which will benefit various mission projects. Drop your goodies off labeled "Bake Sale" in the church kitchen the week before or on Saturday morning, December 15th. Volunteers will be appreciated that Saturday (December 15th from 9 a.m. to 12-noon) to help plate cookies. Please sign-up on the Women's Ministries bulletin board to help with set up.

CHURCH LIBRARY During the busy month of December take time to read. Our church library has many good books with a Christmas theme. Just take a book home and return it when you are finished.

RADIO CHURCH SERVICES

SUN 6:30AM—WTMJ (AM 620) LUTHERAN HOUR &

SUN 7:00AM—WJYI (AM 1340) LUTHERAN RADIO