

*Most People don't want the Savior who
Promised to Come... Do You?*



SHINING MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bozeman, MT

The Third Sunday in Advent – December 13th, 2020

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also a power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus.

HYMN #771

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God;
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ;



I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world;
Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path
When we have run with pa-tience the race,



The star of my life is Je-sus.
And show me the way to the Fa-ther.
We shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all; The



night and the day are both a-like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN #12

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray:

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-6

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. ³ Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says the Lord Almighty. ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;*
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;*
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;*
For you are my rock and my fortress.

Refrain

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,*
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,*
do not forsake me, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,*
your might to all who are to come.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light...

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

HYMN #18

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion,
 deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed
 souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don
 to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is
 And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -
 And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can
 cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren
 pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

Our offerings are an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work.

*You can place your offering in the plate in the entryway,
or through our [secure online giving site](#).*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH / ADULT CONFIRMATION - 10:30 AM

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #768

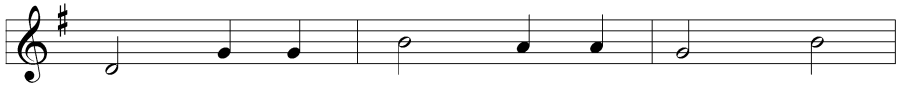
How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -



of the Lord, Is laid for your
 not dis - mayed; For I am your
 for re - pose I will not, I
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -



faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 God and will still give you aid; I'll
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And



more can he say than to you
 strength - en you, help you, and cause
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -
 flames will not hurt you; I on -
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -



he has said Who un - to the
 you to stand, Up - held by my
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no
 ly de - sign Your dross to con -
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall



Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!
 some and your gold to re - fine."
 still on my shoul - ders be borne."

Announcements

Serving Us Next Week (December 13th – 19th)

Cleaners: Blackstad, Holte, Parks

Serving Us Next Week (December 20th – 26th)

Cleaners: Bakers, Hunziker, Beal, Claunch

This Week at Shining Mountains:

Today	8:30 am	Divine Worship
	9:40 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am	Divine Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 15 th	9:00 am	Little Lambs
		Pastor on jury duty
Wednesday, Dec. 16 th	2:00 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
	4:30 pm	Youth Confirmation Class
	7:00 pm	Mid-Week Advent Worship
Thursday, Dec. 17 th	9:00 am	Little Lambs
Sunday, Dec. 20 th	8:30 am	Worship
	9:40 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship

WELCOME!

We want to officially welcome to the Shining Mountains family Callie Dykman who was confirmed in the 10:30 service. We thank and praise God for her and look forward to what the Lord has in store as we walk together in faith and mission.

Giving Tree - December Service Opportunity

In the entryway, there is a giving tree with more opportunities to give to fellow brothers and sisters in need. You will find requests to support families from our sister churches in Colorado who were displaced by the fires earlier this year. You will also find opportunities to help provide gift cards to fellow local people. The church often receives calls and requests for help. If you would like to help with those requests, check out the giving tree for gift card ideas. You can place any gift cards in the basket under the tree, in the offering plate, or give to pastor.

Christmas Service Times

With Christmas less than 2 weeks away, we just want to let you know the plans for this year. In hopes of giving more people an opportunity to worship in person, we are ADDING a **4:30 PM service on Thursday, December 24th**. We will also have the 7 PM service (same service) and a Festival Service with Communion at 10:30 AM on Friday, December 25th. We would love it if you are able to join us for those. We will livestream in case you are not able to join us in person.

Poinsettia Sign-up

Check out the bulletin board in the entryway and grab a tag for a Poinsettias. The prices are \$10 for a regular and \$20 for a large plant.

Mid-week Advent Worship

Just a reminder that we will have our final Mid-Week Advent Worship Services this Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 7 PM. Our theme for this year is *The Songs of Advent*. We'd love for you to join us!

Thank You!

Because of your generosity and support, Shining Mountains was privileged to be able to provide 21 gifts (nearly twice our goal) for foster kids in the Gallatin Valley. What a joy and privilege it is to see you share the love of Jesus with those in our community. Thank You!

A Thank You from the SMLC Family we helped

Fellow members of Shining Mountains Lutheran Church, Thank you so very much for the kindness you have shown my family. The prayers and donations have been so thoughtful. We were able to get needed school supplies and clothes plus fix our vehicle. We cannot fully express how blessed we feel.

WELS Connection

If you'd more info about the WELS Connection topic or how to donate to the work in Latin America, grab a sheet from the table in the entryway.

Pictures for the Church Directory

In hopes of updating our Church Directory, we're asking you to send a recent picture of your family to President Dan Gustafson either by email @ gusinmt@gmail.com or to his cell: (406) 599-1361. If you have any questions, please speak with Dan or Pastor. Thank You!