

# The Divine Service



*"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness..."*  
*(John 1:6-7)*

3rd Sunday in Advent



AD 2020, December 13

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*41415 W. Nine Mile Road*  
*Novi, Michigan 48375-4306*  
*(248) 349-0565*      [www.GoodShepherdNovi.org](http://www.GoodShepherdNovi.org)  
*Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS (www.wels.net)*

# The Divine Service

*This order of service is a variation of the Common Service, p 15 in Christian Worship. To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus as much as possible, singing will be restricted to only a few places. The responsive portions of the liturgy shall be spoken. Where you see this symbol + you may make the sign of the cross.*

## Hymn 14 Arise, O Christian People

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/14>

### INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: **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 FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3,10,11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
 my soul shall exult in my God,  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
 to sprout up before all the nations.

**M:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY ~ Psalm 71 (page 92)**

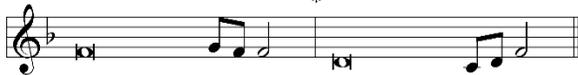
**Cantor:** Verses ~ **Congregation:** Refrain & Glory be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

*Refrain*



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

*Psalm tone*



*Refrain*

Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;<sup>\*</sup>  
 let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;<sup>\*</sup>  
 turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;<sup>\*</sup>  
 For you are my rock and my fortress.

*Refrain*

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,<sup>\*</sup>  
 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*

Refrain Tune: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**THE SECOND LESSON      1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

M:     The word of the Lord.  
C:     **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.  
(Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

C: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.** (*sung*)

M:     The word of the Lord.  
C:     **Thanks be to God.**



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

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The piece ends with a double bar line.

**THE GOSPEL          John 1:6-8,19-28**

M:     The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> verse.  
C:     **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M:     The gospel of the Lord.  
C:     **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*All readings are from the English Standard Version*

**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.**

**Hymn 17          God’s Own Son Most Holy**  
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/17>

**SERMON TEXT:** JOHN 1:6-8,18-29

**SERMON THEME:** A VOICE SPEAKS SO THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW THE CHRIST.

**Hymn 11 Comfort, Comfort All My People**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/11>

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.

*In our prayers....*

While we offer up prayers for specific requests in our services, petitions and intercessions can be offered up throughout the week for continued concerns. Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

- ❖ For Elaine Patton, recovering from illness
- ❖ For Jim & Lindsey (nee: Holloway) Hardiman who were blessed with the gift of a baby girl (Emma James Hardiman, born at 7:39 AM on November 24; 6 lbs, 1 oz.)

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

M: ... one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**THE BENEDICTION**

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.**

**Hymn 27 O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/27>

*All hymns, music, Psalms, and other parts of the service are reprinted by permission of OneLicense.net, license # A-728797.*



Preacher & Celebrant  
Organist

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder  
Jeanette Schneider

**Worship Tidbit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

By now you have certainly noticed our Advent Wreath. There are five candles in it – one blue candle for each week in the Advent season, and the white Christ Candle which is lit at Christmas. Though there are many traditions attached to the meaning of the blue candles, this particular tradition is common: The 1<sup>st</sup> candle is the Candle of Prophecy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> candle is the Bethlehem Candle. The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is the Shepherd Candle. The 4<sup>th</sup> Candle is the Angel Candle. Each helps us to recall the coming of our Savior.

## **REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**Divine Service** is Sundays at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.

**Sunday School & Adult Bible Class** is on Sunday at 8:45 AM.

Bible Matters, a Bible discussion group, will be suspended until January 2021.

## **ADVENT VESPERS**

We prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord with prayer, meditation, and penitence. Advent allows for additional services to ponder our Lord's promises and their fulfillment. We worship on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The theme of our Advent Vespers will be the Hymns of Advent.

**December 16** The Gloria in Excelsis – The Song of Angels

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

We will be having our Christmas services as usual this year. Here is the schedule:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -- December 24, 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Festival Service -- December 25, 10:00 AM

## **OFFICE HOURS** – Monday – Thursday (9:00 AM - Noon)

The pastor will be in his office unless a meeting has been scheduled elsewhere (consult the weekly schedule). The pastor is also available by appointment. Call or text (248-719-5218). You may also email (welsnovi@aol.com), but the response may be slower.

## **POINSETTIAS**

The Ladies of Good Shepherd will be setting out a sign-up sheet soon for Christmas poinsettias. The cost will be determined soon. Checks can be made out to Good Shepherd Worship Committee. Cash can be left in the collection plate but needs to be designated “poinsettias.” The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas services. You are welcome to take yours home after the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service.

## **THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

<b>Sunday (12/13)</b>	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM Sunday School Teachers' meeting – 11:15 AM
Wednesday	Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
<b>Sunday (12/20)</b>	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM
Thursday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM
Friday	Christmas Day Festival Service – 10:00 AM

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE FARM (MSU EXTENSION)**

We will be participating in “Holiday Lights at the Farm” at the MSU Extension (12 Mile and Meadowbrook Roads). David Kirvan has arranged a set up time on Saturday, December 12. We will meet at Good Shepherd at Noon to load our display items, and arrive at the MSU Extension at 1:00 PM. Hopefully, this works for all those who had expressed interest in helping. If you still want to lend a hand, we will be assembling our Nativity scene and putting up lights in our assigned area. The more, the merrier.

Our display and many others will be there for five evenings [December 17-21 (5 – 10 PM). Admission is \$10 per vehicle.]. If you are interested in more information from the MSU Extension, you can find it here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/events/holiday-lights>

Please keep in mind that we will still need helping hands to take down the lights and to return our Nativity scene to Good Shepherd. That particular day and time has not been determined yet, but it will take place December 22-24 or 27.

## **VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

COVID has put a damper on a number of Christmas traditions and outings that we attend. You may still attend a number of Christmas concerts, although they will be virtual. Here are a couple you can enjoy. One is live-streamed; the other is an archived video.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – Sunday, December 13 at 4 PM (EST) (livestream.com/WLSLive.)

Martin Luther College – 2019 Christmas Concert (<https://livestream.com/mlc-streams/events/8839343/videos/199656698>)

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS**

1) A family from Palabra de Vida Lutheran Church in Detroit recently suffered a house fire. They are in need of a few items. Two boys and a girl would benefit from any help we can give. For more information, please email the church at [welsnovi@aol.com](mailto:welsnovi@aol.com). Gifts of money (marked “Palabra de Vida”) are also appreciated, as they will be looking for a new apartment to move into.

2) Pastor Schroeder had been serving as a chaplain at three nursing homes, but that has ceased due to COVID restrictions. Still, we can send Christmas cards to the residents of each home. If you are willing to jot down a short note in a few cards, we can send many Christmas cards to be distributed in each nursing home. We can also send some cards to our own shut-ins to let them know that we have not forgotten them. Cards will be available after church on Sunday, December 13.

## **NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)**

**Join HVL's Mailing List** - Go to [HVLHS.org](http://HVLHS.org) and click on “Sign up for Newsletter” or call or email the school office at [mail@hvlhs.org](mailto:mail@hvlhs.org) to be added.

## **God's blessings from HVL!**

HVL is currently utilizing online instruction with all of our students. While it is a tremendous blessing to be able to utilize technology in this way, we are eagerly looking forward to our return to face to face instruction. During the Christmas season we reflect on the fact that God has blessed us with many physical gifts that we can touch, see, and enjoy, but his greatest gifts we grasp only by faith. We pray that God blesses your Christmas celebration with the comfort and promises of the greatest blessing of all -- Christ Jesus our Savior.

## **HVL Christmas Concert Canceled**

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite everyone on campus for our annual Christmas concert this year; however, once we have our students back on campus, we are looking to record a few pieces to make available online.

## **Thrivent Action Awards**

If you are a Thrivent member and want to hear more about how to support HVL through Action Teams or Choice Dollars, please reach out to HVL and let us know. We can work with you to make the most of these giving opportunities.

## **HVL SUPPORT**

At this time of year, we pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings he gives us every day. As Christmas approaches, we especially praise God for the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. At Huron Valley Lutheran High School, the next generation is taught the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Please consider a special, generous offering to our high school. And let's remember that our regular, planned gifts to HVL help our high school to meet its financial obligations in a timely manner.

## **REDFORD PREGNANCY CARE CENTER (RPCC) UPDATE**

Even with COVID restrictions, the RPCC has seen a few more moms in the last number of weeks. There have been some very nice donations, but more items would be helpful. Especially needed is gently used clothing in sizes 24 mo. - 4T for both boys and girls. If you can help, you may drop off your donations at church so that they can be delivered to the RPCC. Your generosity is appreciated.

## **A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

### **DECEMBER** *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 2 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 2 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 6 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 6 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 6 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 6 Church Decoration – 11:15 AM
- 9 NO Catechism Class; memory work still as scheduled
- 9 Martin Luther Memorial Home Board Meeting, Lansing – 4:00 PM
- 9 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 13 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 13 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 13 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 14 Pastors' Circuit Meeting at Our Saviour, Westland – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 15 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 15 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 16 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 16 Advent Vespers – 7:00 PM
- 20 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 20 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Festival Service – 10:00 AM
- 27 NO Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
- 27 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)

### **JANUARY** *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 3 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 3 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 4 Private Confession & Absolution – 6:30-8:30 PM
- 6 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 6 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 10 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 10 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 11 Pastors' Circuit Meeting – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 11 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 13 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 13 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 17 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 17 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 17 Elders' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 18 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 19 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 19 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 20 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 20 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 24 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 24 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 24 Evangelism & Stewardship Committee meetings – 11:15 AM
- 25 Bible Information Class – 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 26 Martin Luther Memorial Home Board Meeting, Lansing – 4:00 PM
- 27 Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 27 Bible Matters discussion group – 7:00 PM
- 31 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 31 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM

## CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE

**Divine Services:** We have in-person services on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

**Online Worship:** You can join in our services via Facebook Live (Sundays, 10 AM). You can find it here, or by searching for "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure you click to the one in Novi.

**Archived Resources:** We are posting our services on YouTube. A search for "Good Shepherd Novi" should bring up services. As always, sermon manuscripts are posted on the pastor's blog ([www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com](http://www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com)). You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

**Person-to-person care:** Pastor Schroeder will be in his office to offer private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. Please set up your visit by appointment at any time.

**In case you contract COVID-19:** Please contact Pastor Schroeder. He will alert the congregation so that your fellow members may pray for you, and he will keep everyone informed of your condition. If possible, Pastor Schroeder will visit you during your quarantine. At the very least, he will keep in contact with you and provide devotional materials. If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

## LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

### **Weekly Attendance**

#### **December 6**

Divine Service	34
Lord's Supper	30
Sunday School	1
Adult Bible Class	13
Advent Vespers (Dec.2)	13

### **Offerings for the Lord's Work**

#### **December 6**

General Fund	\$ 4,795.00
Missions	\$ 100.00
Windows/Siding	\$ 50.00

---

---

**Total Offerings**                      **\$ 4,945.00**

**Note:** Our combined offerings for Thanksgiving and Advent Vespers, up to \$2,000, is designated for Huron Valley Lutheran High School.

**SHUT-INS** - Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.

<b>Sylvia Campbell</b>	1745 Wickhamn	Royal Oak, MI 48073
<b>Jim Hoble</b>	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
<b>Margaretha Lester</b>	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
<b>Elaine Patton</b>	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
<b>Mary Zuehlke</b>	29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118	Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**WELS RADIO HOUR** broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on [faithtalkdetroit.com](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) and can be heard on the [faithtalkdetroit](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) phone app.

**Christian Education:** We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

### **St. Peter Lutheran School**

(Pre-K only)  
1343 Penniman Avenue  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 421-9022  
[www.splp.org](http://www.splp.org)  
Becky Lohrmann, teacher

### **St. Paul Lutheran School**

(Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
17810 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(734) 453-0460  
[www.stpaulslivonia.org](http://www.stpaulslivonia.org)  
Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

### **Huron Valley Lutheran High School**

(9<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
33740 Cowan Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 525-0160  
[www.hvlhs.org](http://www.hvlhs.org)  
Mr. Matt Foley, principal