



Welcome to Beautiful Savior!

**5631 North Adams Road,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248.646.5041
www.bsldmi.org**

**FORGIVENESS - *"What Is Forgiveness?"*
January 2, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

What is and isn't forgiveness? Forgiveness releases the power of those who harmed us. Still, it is not a way to say, "Go ahead and do it again." Forgiveness helps us refuse to live in the past, even if we still remember it. It also breaks a continuous cycle of pain.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

A: Assistant Minister

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC

Please welcome our guest organist, Linda Bauer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please kneel as you are able during a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

P: Rejoice in this good news: In ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word.
By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.

C: In Jesus's name, we:

Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,

Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without,

Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching, and

Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.

(Please be seated.)

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Nancy Geik

WORSHIP THEME PROVERB *Proverbs 17:9*

A: Together, let us recite Proverbs 17:9:

C: One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.

READING *Micah 7:18-20*

A: The reading is from the book of Micah, the seventh chapter.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 103:6-14*

A: Together, let us read an excerpt from Psalm 103 responsively:

A: The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

C: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

A: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

A: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

C: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

A: as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

C: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

A: For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL VERSE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW 836

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Interim Children’s Ministries Coordinator

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor
“What Is Forgiveness”

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” vv. 1 & 2*

ELW 815

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

P: You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities (*especially*). As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

STEWARDSHIP READING

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

OFFERING

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Together, let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

(Please be seated.)

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is a meal instituted by Jesus Christ that involves the receiving of God's forgiveness in a tangible form – we receive Jesus's life-giving body and blood in the presence of bread and wine (or grape juice). The meal is a time of remembrance and celebration.

Who can take part?

Holy Communion is something that not one of us has earned, so we receive it as God's free gift of life. The Church traditionally recommends that people be baptized before taking part, but all that is required is simply a heart that believes in Jesus Christ. If a person of any age wishes to be baptized, please let us know.

How does Holy Communion take place?

If you wish to take part, come forward as directed by the ushers. You will receive the wafer from the Pastor and the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. If you wish to come forward for a blessing only, please cross your arms across your chest. You may also remain seated if you so wish.

HOLY COMMUNION

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together let us pray:

C: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

P: May God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: **We will! Thanks be to God!**

P: And next time ...

C: ... we'll invite a friend!

POSTLUDE

Thank you, Linda, for leading us in worship this morning.

We thank you for worshiping with us today.

We hope to worship with you again in the near future!

***Many thanks to all those on our tech team
for making this livestream service possible.***

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – The 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed through our website and YouTube pages. People can gather with us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. to worship in a more traditional style in person. We offer a more contemporary style worship service at 11:15 a.m. People can also worship in their homes with the livestream at 9 or 11:15 a.m., as well as access the recording of either service any time after worship concludes.

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