

**Historic Scripture Lessons for 🕯️🕯️🕯️ the Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Old Testament**

**Isaiah 40:1-8 NIV** Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever."

**Epistle**

**Philippians 4:4-7** 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.

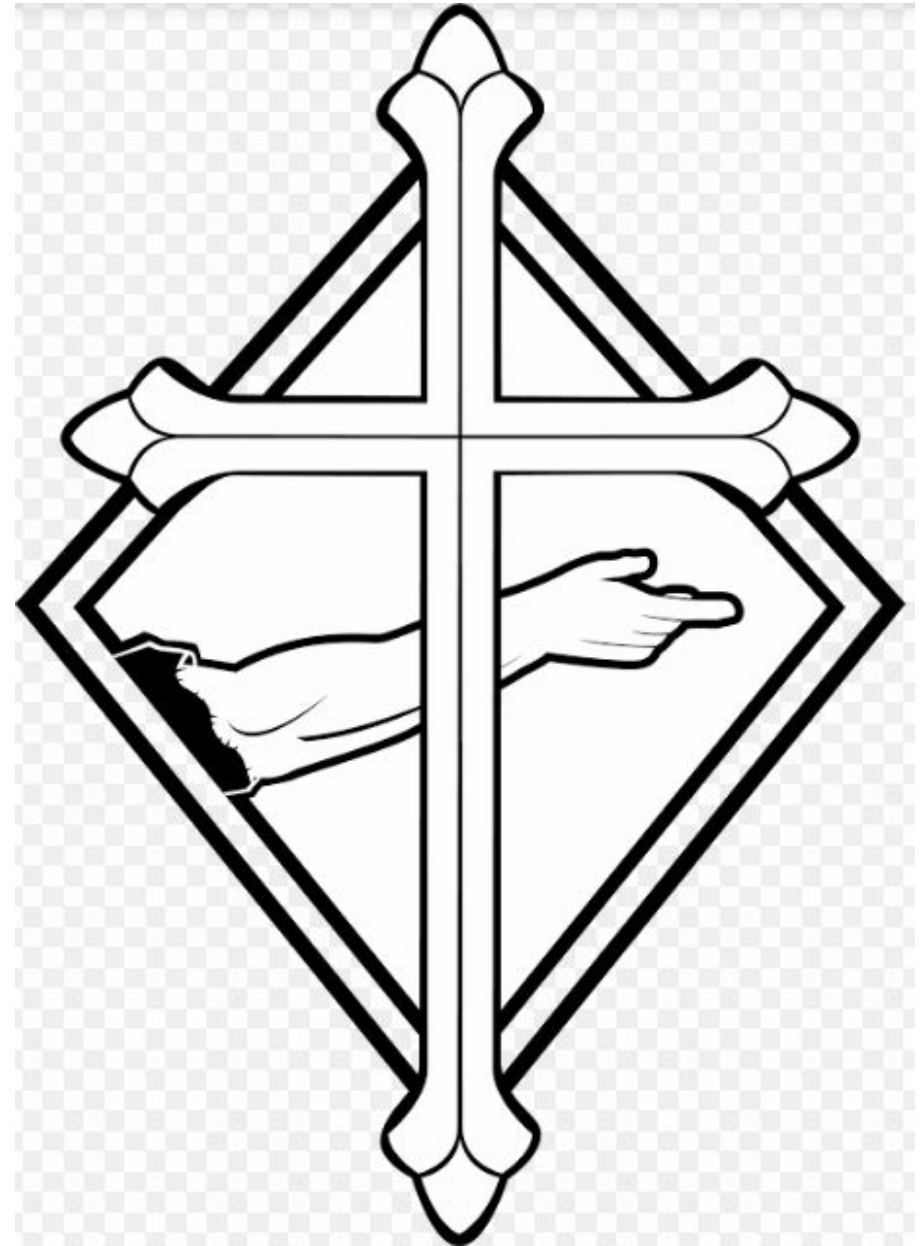
**Historic Gospel** (Last week's 3-Year Gospel & Sermon Text)

**John 1:19-28** Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 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.

**3-Year Gospel-B** (Sermon Text)

**Luke 1:26-38** In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. 31 You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 🕯️🕯️🕯️ *Roraté Coeli: Jesus is Near*  
*Behold the Lamb of God* ✠ December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:30 am



*Historic Church Year Symbol Set for Advent-4: Matthew 3 or Luke 1 or John 1  
John the Baptist preaches repentance and points to Jesus, the Lamb of God.*

# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✦ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✦ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Advent-4 Salvation is Near

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take Communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold, then silver liturgy sheets or red TLH p.5,24

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	75 (4v)	Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken
<i>Psalm 25</i>	25 (3v)	<i>To You O LORD, I Lift My Soul; to You I Lift.. 7</i>
Hymn of the Day	64 (5v)	Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	85 (15)	<i>Sing vv. 1&amp;15 From Heav'n Above to Earth</i>
Distribution Hymn	85 (15)	<i>Sing vv. 2- "To you this night is born a Child</i>
Closing Hymn	76 (5v)	A Great and Mighty Wonder

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (& Church Year)**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 Isa. 40:1-11 Malachi 3:1-7 Malachi 4:1-6 Isa.28:14-19 Isa.7:1-17 Micah 5:1-5  
 Matt.1:18-25 Luke1:39-45 Luke 1:46-56 Luke1:57-66 Lu.1:67-80 Matt.1:1-17

**PROPERs for RORATÉ COELI = 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT  DEC 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**INTROIT** Drop down, you Heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open and bring forth Salvation. The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ...Psalm 90

**COLLECT** Stir up Your power, O LORD, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives - and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever.  
**C: ♪ A---men.**

**GRADUAL C: Alleluia! The LORD is near to all those who call on Him, to all that call on Him in truth. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy Name. Alleluia! Alleluia! You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, my LORD. Alleluia!** ...from Psalm 144

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin →)

O.T. **Isaiah 40:1-8** God will send His messenger of *comfort*, John B.  
 Epi. **Philippians 4:4-7** Rejoice in the LORD *always*. I say again, **REJOICE!**  
 Gos. **John 1:19-28** John the Baptist testifies that He is *not* the Christ.

**Psalm 25 REFRAIN: To You, O LORD, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 1. ♪ Lord, \_ Make me know Your ways, Teach me Your paths, And keep me in the way of Your truth, \_ For You are God, my Saviour.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 2. ♪ For- the-Lord is good and righteous, \_ Revealing His way, To those who seek Him, \_ Gently leading the poor, and the humble.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 3. ♪ To-the-ones who seek the Lord, \_ Who look to His Word, Who live in His Love, \_ He-will-always be near; He will show them His mercy.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

**SERMON (Gospel-B) Luke 1:26-38 " (NOTHING IS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD"**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Sue (Foster)	(Bev Foster's daughter)	Sue- liver & pancreas cancerous growth
Jim&Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done.	Jim at home. Blood pressure spikes
Mary Lou Knigge	Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab.	Recuperating
Dee Kurczewski	(David) Dee was in hospital after fall.	Back home, rehab
Carolyn Miner	(Don) Carolyn had (knee) surgery last week.	Back home
Joan & Frank Patrick	Frank had (eye)surgery last week.	Both have eyes Wed.
Jon SawyerSr	(Andrea) Had a stroke in Boston.	Flown home(LRMC) now home
Martha Sawyer	(Jon's mom) In Brandon, MS Hospital-	congestive heart failure
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Delores & Jim at home.	Both doing rehab
Bev Wienke	(Don) Bev is rehabbing from her back.	Thank God for progress

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Elaine Jones	Bev Foster & Joe Thacker
Treaters	Mary Lou Knigge (again)	Volunteer

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday Attendance/(L.S.) / Wed.	24/(23) / 13	24 / 21
Bible Class Attendance (Sunday)	8	8
Sunday Offering for LORD / Wed.	\$. / \$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 11 JC, Hero of Faithful
Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
X.Eve(ning)Worship	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk
Monday, .12/25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Family Candlelight Christmas EVE at OSL
Monday, .12/25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Special Christmas DAY Carols Worship
Next Sunday 12/31	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 12 JC, Hero of Faithful
First Sunday after Christmas (NY Eve)	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Holy Communion)
NY Evening Worship	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk
	7:00 pm	Special New Year's Eve Worship (W/ L.S.)

Our Savior Elders are: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with any concerns.

✦ Please take advantage of (5)Worship opportunities this week – Christmas/New Year's: Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30; 7 pm Christmas Eve; Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Day; Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30; 7 pm NY Eve  
 Next Sunday 12/31 Christmas-1 (No L.S. p.5) TLH #s ELH-139 647 79 106 97

ADVENT4.B Luke 1:26-38 "MISSION (NOTHING IS) IMPOSSIBLE W/GOD"12.24.17

INTRODUCTION The greatest thing about Christmas morning is the surprises. When else in life do you get to pile 10, 20, or even 30 surprises all together and sit for an hour enjoying each of them? One after another, surprise after surprise. Christmas morning is wonderful in that way. I can remember still today the way I felt as a child, the amazement, the astonishment of Christmas morning.

This morning we focus on one of the greatest surprises that ever there was, the surprise that took place when an **angel by the name of Gabriel** appeared to a **young teenager by the name of Mary**. Gabriel piled one surprise upon another. Mary and Joseph's Christmas tree had more astonishing surprises than any couple on earth had ever experienced. Gabriel surprised Mary with the following **fourth and last Sunday of Advent** brings a much **kinder and gentler** text. John the Baptist has had his say and is done for another year. The scene shifts to a **town in northern Galilee** named **Nazareth**. (There was no such town by that name in the Old Testament. It was up in the northern hill country, a strategic lookout, and a place of recent development, which explains what Joseph, who was a contractor, was doing there.)

Instead of John, today our (guest) preacher is **an angel**, only **one of two named** angels in the Bible – (this one) **Gabriel**. Gabriel appeared to Daniel in exile in Babylon, and now centuries later, he appears to a young woman/girl, perhaps only 15 or 16 years old, getting ready for her marriage to Joseph, who was a **descendant of David**.

**"Greetings, O highly favored one, the Lord is with you."** How's that for a greeting? It's **startling enough** to hear from an angel, and when the angel greets you that way you really stop and take notice. Mary was troubled, wondering what these words meant? What did it mean to be **"favored by God"** and that the Lord was with her?

Here is what it meant. **"Do not fear."** (Don't you love how angels always say that?) **"Don't fear."** Why? (Why not?) Because **they scare the daylight** out of people, that's why. For all we know, Mary **let out a scream** at the sight of Gabriel, and **don't think YOU wouldn't have**. But to stand in God's favor, to be justified by grace, means to **stand without fear in the presence of the Holy**, even in the **presence of holy angels**.

The angel had some **news**. **"You have found favor with God."** The word is **"grace"** (**kesed** in Hebrew), **God's undeserved kindness toward sinners**. Yes, **Mary is a sinner**. Don't let pious speculations about her being conceived without original sin distract you. **She is a daughter of Eve and Adam** like the rest of us. She was born with the same inherited disease as all of us. That she has God's favor is an act of **God's undeserved kindness**. (not her holiness).

We might imagine that being favored by God means that life would be easy from that point on. After all, people think that when you're favored by God, **God will DO YOU favors**. The **traffic** parts in front of you, **germs** detour around you, and **general misfortune never** heads toward your house. **Not so**. To be favored by God is to be part of God's plan, to have **His Will done with you**, which inevitably results in your inconvenience. (Hope we learned that in our 2017 Advent Midweeks: **Oratio Meditation Tentatio**.) "You will conceive a child

in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His Name **Y'shua, Jesus**, (=) **"YeHoWvaH is Salvation"**. He will be **great**, and will be called the **Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David."

That's **quite a bit for a teenager** to take in, wouldn't you say? Here's Mary, engaged, yet to be married, a virgin, being told by an angel that she was about to **conceive a child without the participation of a man**. His Name was already picked out, and there was no question about Who is the **Father. God** Himself. There was also no question as to what **His purpose was** – He is to sit on the throne of His father David forever. He was to be the Son of David spoken of by the prophet Nathan, the One who would establish David's reign and **kingdom forever**.

IMPOSSIBLE, you say. **Virgins don't conceive**. We all know that. And don't think for a moment that Mary didn't know the facts of life either. Sometimes we think that those people two thousand years ago were a bunch of superstitious rubes who would believe anything. I'm sure **Mary's parents** knew this too, and wondered what they were hearing when Mary came to them and said, "Mom, Dad, guess what? I just got a visit from an angel who said I was going to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit and bear the Son of God." Yeah. We know **Joseph** didn't buy the story initially, but **had to be persuaded in a dream**. I'm sure the neighbors raised their eyebrows at the news, you know how small towns are. No wonder Mary went away to the hill country to see **cousin Elizabeth**, who also was **six months out to here** at an age when she could have/should have been a (great?-)grandmother.

**Impossible, you say**. Yes it is. Old ladies and virgins do not ordinarily conceive children, **but with God, nothing is impossible**.

**Marvel now, O Heaven and earth, that our Lord chose such a birth**. (One of our Christmas HYMNS) To be conceived of a Virgin without the aid of a man. It harkens back to the **first Gospel promise** (the **proto-evangelium**) in the Scriptures from **Genesis**. **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, between her Seed and yours."** God promised to act, to do it all. He promised that the **Seed of a woman** (but not of man) would strike the head of the serpent. It takes One born of woman yet without man, One born without Adam's inherited fault. One Who doesn't have Adam's sin yet Who **fully shares in our humanity**.

That's why **Mary's virginity is so important**. This isN'T about **Mary's goodness or her purity**. It's about the fact that our Lord has **no earthly father** and therefore **has no inherited sin from Adam** -- (He is) like us in every way, sharing fully our flesh, bone, and blood **and yet without sin**.

We are **born in sin**, sinful from the moment of our conception, as **David** reminds us in **Psalm 51**. **That was true even of Mary**. But **her Child is different, utterly unique**. He is man of His mother, but God of His Father. He is both true God and true Man in one unique Person. He is the Word made Flesh, conceived in the womb of Mary to save humanity from the death and damnation our sins deserve. **Let's see "4 (Some)THINGS ABOUT MARY" that teach us:**

1. **Eve in light of Mary,**
2. (Mary)= **Mother Israel reduced to 1,**
3. (Mary) **Picture of mother Church,**
4. **Prototype of every believer in Christ**

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1. Think about **Eve** in light of Mary. **Mary is the counterpart of Eve.** Eve listened to the word of the devil, that diabolical lie that God is not true to His Word, that we can be like God, that we can be gods ourselves, that we will not die as a result of our disobedience. Eve hearkened to the lie, and she was deceived. It didn't bring wisdom into the world, as she thought. Sin brought deception, darkness, and death. Mary heard the Word of the Lord through the angel, the (Impossible) Word that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the Power of God would overshadow her, and then she in her virginity would conceive a Son who would be the promised Messiah and Savior. Mary heard that Word and **she believed & conceived.** For *with God, nothing is impossible.*

2. **Mary is mother Israel reduced to one** young woman from Nazareth. All those mothers of Israel, some like **Sarah** or **Hannah** or **Ruth** who conceived sons against all the odds by the Word and promise of God. Mary stands at the **end of a long line of Israelite mothers who waited with hope and faith** the coming promise of God and trusted that *With God nothing was impossible.* Mary is mother Israel, conceiving in the fullness of time the Son of God, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem humanity from under the Law.

3. **Mary is a picture of mother Church,** (our mother,) who by the Word preached and heard conceives children of God, who are **born in the water of Baptism.** You and I are "virgin-born," born in our Baptisms **not of natural-man,** but of God by water and the Holy Spirit.

4. **Mary is the prototype of each and every believer** in Christ, hearing the impossible Word that declares a sinner justified before God, and saying "yes, let it be to me according to Your Word." **Don't overlook Mary's "Yes."** **That is the "Yes" of Faith,** the "Amen" of a heart that trusts the Word of God even when *that Word has said an impossible thing.* What must have been going through her mind and heart as she contemplated what the angel told her? How would she tell her parents, her fiancé, her friends and neighbors? She bears the scandal of her Son's incarnation too. The Pharisees would later say to Jesus, "We know who our fathers are," implying the worst about Jesus and His mother. **Yet this faith-filled young woman,** this most highly favored lady, simply says "Yes." Amen. Let it be, according to your Word.

**CONCLUSION** **When the Word become Flesh and enters the world,** things get **messed up.** Plans are **overturned.** People are **inconvenienced.** Presuppositions are utterly **destroyed.** God's ways are **not** our ways. We wouldn't have done it this way, but we are not God...and that's good. God's way is to save by the Virgin's womb, the manger crib, the Cross and the tomb. He wants us to be sure that we are covered, literally **from the womb to the tomb.** Our humanity is embraced every step of the way from conception to grave. In the womb of Mary the most amazing thing happens by the grace of God – God becomes Man. A virgin daughter of Eve bears the sinless Son of God.

God is with us. **Emmanuel.** A Virgin conceives. A dead man rises. Sinners stand justified before God. God and Man are reconciled. - Impossible? **WITH GOD NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. Come, Lord Jesus ... and come Quickly. IJ'N, Amen. SDG**

*The peace of God which surpasses our understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, until He appears again in glory, and you in glory with Him.*

## **Possible Prayer of Church + 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Roraté Coeli) December 24**

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible Brief silence)*

Heavenly Father, throughout this Advent season we have heard that Christ has come in the Flesh. He comes to us **today in Word and Sacrament,** and He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Thank You for sending Your only begotten Son to take away the sin of the world and give us the gift of eternal life. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be kept firm in Your Word and faith until we are received into Your eternal Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of faithfulness, we rejoice that You fulfilled Your promise to send the Messiah. Grant that Your people may **celebrate the birth of Christ** by hearing the Word, singing Your praises and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. Grant that those who hear the fulfillment of Your promise may also fulfill their own confirmation promises to regularly hear Your Word and receive the Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, through Baptism You forgive sins, rescue sinners from death and the devil, and grant eternal salvation to all who believe. Sinners are given a new identity in Christ. We confess that we have received all that is Christ's through Baptism, including His righteousness and the gift of eternal life. Bless all the baptized, that we may be bold and firm in their faith until we are added to the saints who have gone before us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our ...**

God of truth, as **John the Baptist** served as the voice crying out in the wilderness, so **also pastors continue** to preach Your Word of truth in the wilderness of this fallen world. You send Your Spirit, who works faith through the Word and Sacraments. We thank You for the men and ask, Bless them and their labors, that there may be a bountiful harvest. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our....**

God of all, You have raised up many to help their neighbors through their various vocations. Bless all **helping personnel,** including firemen, law enforcement officers, doctors, therapists and those in the armed forces. Thank You for the services they offer, and grant that we may engage in every opportunity to help our neighbors in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, You establish earthly government and teach us to obey those who rule over us. Send Your blessing upon all who make, administer and judge our laws, that Your people may serve You in peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, You teach us to make our requests known to You so that we are not anxious about anything. Send Your healing hand upon the sick and the suffering **[including OSL Prayer List].**

**Sue (Foster)** (Bev Foster's daughter)

**Mary Lou Knigge**

**Carolyn Miner** (Don)

**Jon SawyerSr** (Andrea) Had a stroke in Boston.

**James Vanesky & Delores Platt**

**Jim&Elma Hendricks**

**Dee Kurczewski** (David)

**Joan & Frank Patrick**

**Martha Sawyer** (Jon's mom)

**Bev Wienke** (Don)

Grant that Your peace will guard them in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.** -- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, *through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. L.S. (p.24)*