



Church of the Savior

L U T H E R A N

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that it took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!

PRELUDE: Cindy Day: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

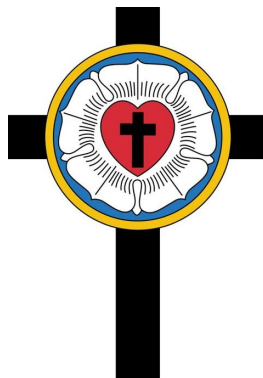
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. Amen.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Em, Am7, Em, and Am. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with some lines starting with a measure rest. The lyrics are: 2.Each win - ter as the year grows col - der, we each grow ol - der, 3.When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for 4.Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from 5.So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the 7.O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and too. The chill sets in a lit - tle col - der; the war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that north, the liv - ing flame in se - cret burn - ing, can pain, brigh - ten to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re - ver - i - ties we knew seem sha - ken and un - true. scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore. we can catch our breath, and turn trans - fixed by faith. kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth. new our loves a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

2.Each win - ter as the year grows col - der, we each grow ol - der,
3.When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
4.Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
5.So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
7.O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and

too. The chill sets in a lit - tle col - der; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
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pain, brigh - ten to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -

ver - i - ties we knew seem sha - ken and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath, and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our loves a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

GREETING

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come, **let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

Song of the 4 Candles (4th Sunday)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 2/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line with a wavy line in the middle. The first section contains the first two lines of the song, and the second section contains the remaining lines.

Watch, pre - pare, re - joice, be - hold! — Watch, pre - pare, re -
joice, be - hold! Light the fourth can - dle, light the fourth can - dle, the
fourth can - dle tells us to be - hold. Je - sus is com - ing,
Je - sus has come, the Light of the World, our Sav - ior, God's
Son. — Watch, pre - pare, re - joice, be - hold! —
Watch, pre - pare, re - joice, be - hold! — Watch, pre - pare, re -
joice, be - hold! — Watch, pre - pare, re - joice, be - hold! —

THE KYRIE

(CONGREGATION SINGS THIS AFTER WORSHIP BAND SINGS EACH VERSE)

Gm C7/E F_{sus} F F/A F/B \flat C Dm Gm C7/E F_{sus} F B \flat maj7 C_{sus} C

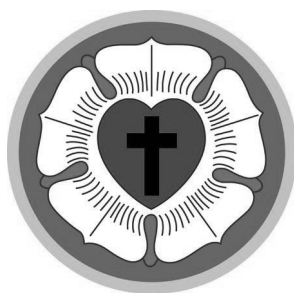


Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy on me;

Gm C7/E F_{sus} F F/A F/B \flat C Dm Gm C7/E F_{sus} F F/B \flat C F



Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy on— me.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is written on two staves in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation, with lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the' underneath. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - - - ia.' underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, D, E, F#m, A7, D on the first staff; and A, F#7, Bm7, E7, A, Bm7, E, A on the second staff.



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.



HOMILY: Pastor Paul

HYMN OF THE DAY: Behold!

♩ = 72

BEHOLD! (Tomlin et al.)

Lead

Em C G

1. Love in - car - nate, love di - vine,
 2. Son of God, and Son of man,
 3. King of kings and Lord of lords,

Lead

C Em C

And the Lord will give the sign.
 there be - fore the world be - gan.
 Son of God, E - ter - nal Word.

Look the wo - man is with child:
 Born to suf - fer, born to save,
 Born to live and born to die,

Lead

G C G

Ma - ry meek and Ma - ry mild.
 born to raise us from the grave.
 born to rise to up on high.

Lead

C G Em

And this wo - man bears a son;
 Christ, the e - ver - last - ing Lord!
 It's for us, God's Son is giv'n;

sent to earth for eve - ry - one.
 Earth to hea - ven now re - stored.
 born to reign from high - est heav'n.

Lead

C (sung for all verses) G Em

Be - hold! Be - hold!

Lead

C G D G

Come and see what God has done! Be - hold! Be -

Lead

Em C G D

hold! Em - ma - u - el, God's on - ly Son! God's gift from a - bove,

Lead

C G

God's gift of love. Be - hold!

CONFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC: Brenda Moderacki: Mary Did You Know? (Lowry) VIDEO

OFFERING

Please mail your offering to:
Church of the Savior
643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the
QR code on right for your offertory giving.

A musical score for a hymn, written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are: "Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Ga - ther a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Ga - ther the hopes and the dreamsof all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pre - sence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come." The chord symbols are: E, F#7, B, E, A, E, A, E, A, E, F#7, B, E, A M7, G#m7, A, E, B, E, F#7, B7, E, A, E, F#7, B7, E7, A M7, G#m7, B m7, A, E.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Ga - ther a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Ga - ther the hopes and the dreamsof all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pre - sence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

ALL: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

D Bm Em7 A D Bm E7 A7 D7

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly God, God of pow-er and might: —

G D F#7 Bm D Bm

Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na. Ho

E7 A G D

san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is he who

F#7 Bm D G D/A A7 D

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: **Amen**



D G 3 Bm 3 G7 C G
 Lamb of God, — you take a - way the sin of the world; have —
 Em D G 3 Bm 3 G7
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, — you take — a - way the
 C G Em D G 3 Bm 3
 sin of the world; have — mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, — you take a -
 G7 C G A7 D C D7sus4 G
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION HYMN: O Come Let Us Adore Him

G C Em Bm Am C
 1. O come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a -
 1. For He a - lone is worth - y for He a - lone is
 3. We'll give him all the glo - ry, We'll give him all the
 A7/C# D Am/C Amaj/C# D Am/C G/D D G
 dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, Christ — the Lord.
 worth - y, for He a - lone is worth - y, — Christ — the Lord.
 glo - ry, We'll give him all the glo - ry, — Christ — the Lord.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**

G D/F# Emin Bmin
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart. Give thanks to the Ho-ly One. Give

C G/B Emin F Dsus4 G
thanks,— be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. Give thanks with a

D/F# Emin Bmin C
grate-ful heart. Give thanks to the Ho-ly One. Give thanks, be-cause He's

G/B Emin F Dsus4 Bmin Emin
giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say "I am

Amin7 D7 G CMaj7
strong!" let the poor say "I am rich!" be-cause of what the Lord has

F Dsus4 Bmin Emin Amin7
done for us. And now let the weak say "I am strong!" let the

D7 G CMaj7 F
poor say "I am rich!" be-cause of what the Lord has done for

Dsus4 G Amin/G D G
us. Give thanks! Give thanks! Give thanks!



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Go Tell It On the Mountain

The musical score is written on four staves in 12/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols (F, C7, Bb, F/C, G) are placed above the staff to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some lines having multiple verses.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1. An an - gel came to Jo - seph and said, "Don't be a - fraid be -
2. "For it is through God's Spir - it this new life will be - gin. And
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the Christ child will be born; and

cause it is to Ma - ry, God's prom - ise has been made." ____
you will name him 'Je - sus.' He'll save man - kind from sin." ____
God will send sal - va - tion that bles - sed Christ - mas morn. ____





Church of the Savior

L U T H E R A N

SERVING TODAY

DATE	LECTOR	WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Dec 21	Wendy McFarland	Brenda Heydt	Antoinette Walder
Dec 24 4pm		Maggie Harrer	Rick Henly
Dec 24 8pm	Sally Leara	Susan Conrad	John Leara
Dec 25	Wendy McFarland	Brenda Heydt	Ed Moderacki
Dec 28	Christophe Moderacki	Sally Leara	John Leara
Jan 4	Dave Johnsrud	Susan Conrad	Ed Moderacki

FLOWERS

Dec 21	For: Merry Christmas From: Susan Conrad
Dec 28	For: In Celebration of Maimi and Willow's Birthday From: Antoinette
Jan 4	For: In Celebration of my Son Tristan's Birthday From: Antoinette

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 21	Sunday School Christmas Caroling & Dinner: 5pm
Dec 24	Christmas Eve: 4pm (family Worship) Christmas Carol Sing: 7:30pm Christmas Eve: 8pm Worship
Dec 25	Christmas Day: 10am Worship
Jan 1	New Year's Day—Church & School Closed
Jan 3	Men's Breakfast
Jan 4	Sunday School & Coffee Hour

MAILING LIST

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