



# The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

*We Greet Our Members and Visitors  
Warmly In Jesus' Name.*

## **The Third Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 15, 2024

*Sunday School Christmas Program Today!*



Welcome to Worship at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour  
*Sharing the Gospel, Learning God's Love, Reaching and Lifting Up Creation!*

2415 Chili Avenue. Rochester, NY, 14624 | 585-247-7824 | [www.oursaviourrochester.org](http://www.oursaviourrochester.org)

## Announcements & Gathering Prayer

*Pastor:* May the Spirit descend on all who gather this day to celebrate the presence of God in our world. May we know that his Spirit rests upon us, so that this hour of worship might strengthen us for our various roles in proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor. To the triune God be all the glory.

### A Gathering Hymn: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## A Prayer for Joy in Our World

**Pastor:** Luke 2:10-11 says, “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Lord, the good news of Jesus’ arrival brings such joy to our world! Reach those who are lost and searching with the message of hope that we have through the Messiah. God, allow your message of peace to bring comfort to our anxious world. As we all go about the holiday season, let the message of great joy pierce through all the noise and into people's hearts. Amen.



**Pastor:** And now let us turn our attention to the Advent Wreath. Let us pray.

*(The Third candle on the wreath is lit by :The Karcher Family.)*

**Pastor:** The third week of Advent we remember the gift of Joy we have in Christ. We remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver all people.

Joy is the gift we all receive from the unconditional love Christ has for us.

**Pastor:** Let us pray – Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Pastor:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

*Pastor:* God of mercy,

*All:* **We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

*Pastor:* God of might,

*All:* **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**


*Pastor:* God in our midst,

*All:* **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

*Pastor:* A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

*All:* **Amen.**

## Kyrie

*Pastor:*   
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*All:*   
Lord, have mer - cy.

*Pastor:*



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*All:*



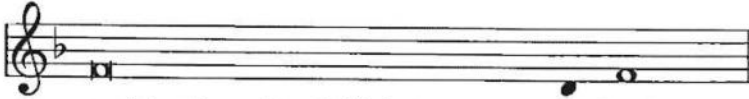
Lord, have mer - cy.



*Pastor:*



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*All:*



Lord, have mer - cy.



*Pastor:*



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

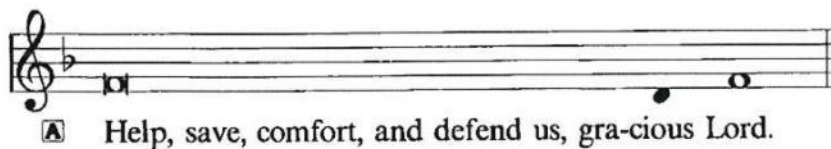
*All:*



Lord, have mer - cy.



*Pastor:*



*All:*

*(The hymn of Praise is traditionally omitted during Advent as a symbol of our voluntary restraint during this season of preparation.*

*The Gloria will return on Christmas Eve.*

*In the meantime, we mark it's absence with a moment of intentional silence)*

## Salutation & Prayer of the Day

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* And also with you.

*Pastor:* Let us pray.

*All:* **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*( You may be seated )*

## The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

*Pastor:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord According to Luke.

*All:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Pastor:* In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

    "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
    for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
    for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

    His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

    He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

    He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

    he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

    He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

    according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday School Christmas Program

*Narrator 1:* Long, long ago a carpenter named Joseph and Mary lived in the city of Nazareth. They had a small house, and they had a donkey, but they did not have any children.

(enter the angel)

One day an angel appeared to Mary and told her:

*Angel:* You are going to have a baby.

*Narrator 1:* Mary was very happy. Later Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. The donkey carried Mary all the way!

(enter Mary and Joseph)

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.



*Narrator 2:* When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, it was late at night and they were tired. They asked the Innkeeper...

*Mary & Joseph:* Is there room in the Inn?

*Innkeeper:* No, but you can stay in the stable.

*Narrator 2:* Mary and Joseph stayed there for the night. In the stable the animals let Mary use their hay for a bed.

*(the angel hands baby to Mary who places the baby in the manger.)*

*Narrator 2:* There was not crib for the baby, so Mary laid him in the animal's manger.



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

*Narrator 3:* In the fields, the shepherds, who were watching their sheep, saw a multitude of angels. The angels said...

*Angels:* Do not be afraid. We bring you great joy!

*(Shepherds enter)*

*Refrain*



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



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



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



*Narrator 3:* The shepherds and sheep went to the stable and when they saw the little baby in the manger, they were filled with joy. The shepherds knelt before little Jesus.

(A star appears)

*Narrator 3:* Far away in the East lived three wise men. They saw a new star in the sky.  
The three wise men knew that the star was a sign...a sign that their Lord Jesus had been born. The wise men set out to follow the star.



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, scaled in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



*Wise Man:* Where is the King of the Jews? We have followed his star.

*(the wise men offer their gifts)*

*Narrator 4:* The star led them all the way to Bethlehem. It came to rest right above a little stable. The wise men went inside the stable. They saw Joseph and Mary with the newborn baby. They knelt down before the baby Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Everyone was filled with joy. Even the animals in the stable seemed to know how special the baby was. Now, every year at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

*Narrator 5:* Jesus brought the good news of God's love to the world. Let us raise our voices to sing a joyous song to Him.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
heav'n and na - ture sing.

## The Apostles' Creed

**Pastor:** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**All:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

**Pastor:** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** receive our prayer.

**Pastor:** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**All:** Amen.

*( You may be seated )*

**Offering Hymn: "People Look East"**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er.  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## Offering Prayer

*Pastor:* Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Pastor:* Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

*All:* **We lift up our hearts to the Lord.**

*Pastor:* See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation!

*All:* **It is fitting and proper to give him thanks and praise.**

*Pastor:* With angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify his holy name, praising him forever more.

*All:* **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*Pastor:* Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him;

*All:* **all mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia!**

*Pastor:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All:* **Hosanna in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**



## The Words of Institution

*Pastor:* 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.

## The Lord's Prayer

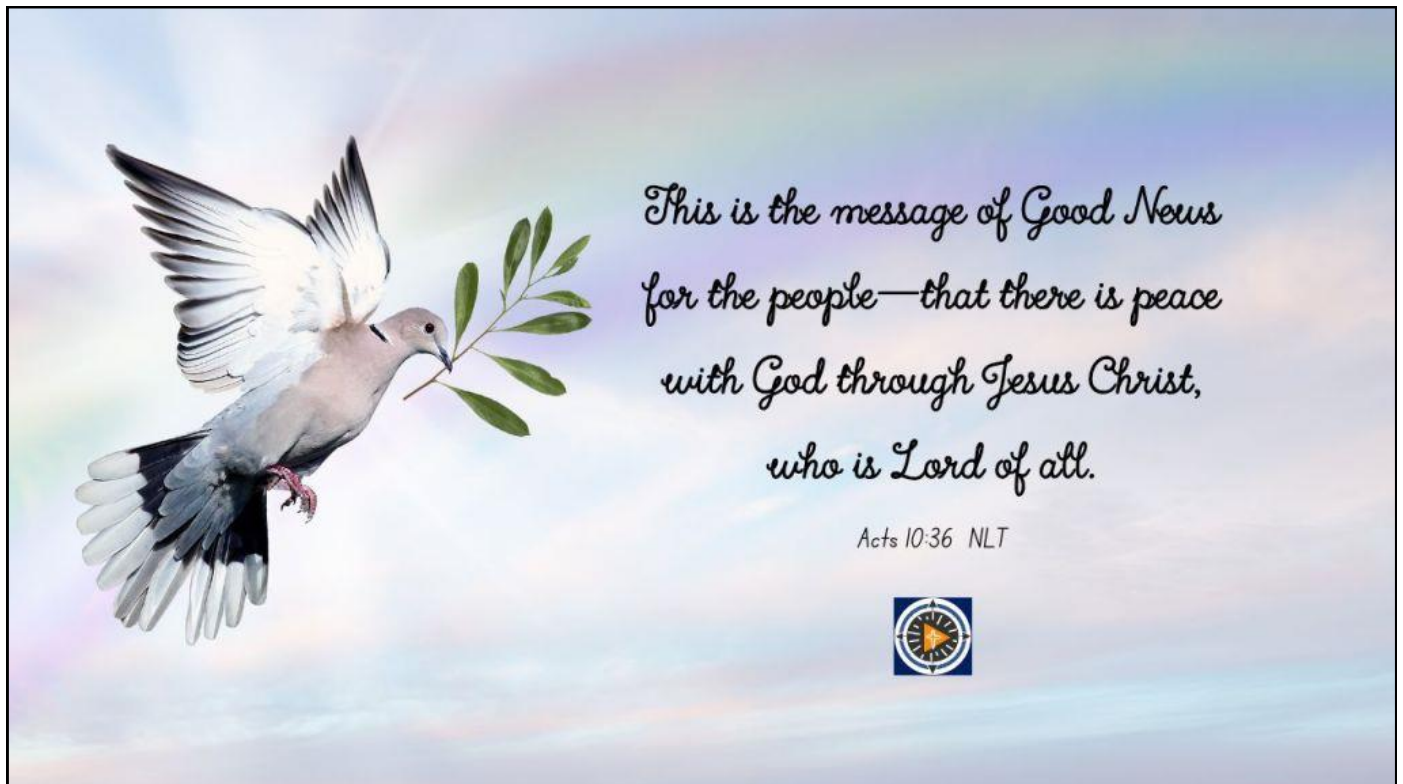
*Pastor:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

*All:* **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.**

## The Peace of Christ

*Pastor:* The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

*All:* **And also with you.**



## Communion Invitation

*Pastor:* Come, taste and see how gracious the Lord is.

*All:* **Amen.**



## Communion Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## Table Blessing

*Pastor:* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

## Closing Hymn: "Come thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King; born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear De - sire of  
Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

eve - ry na - tion, joy of eve - ry long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

## Blessing

*Pastor:* The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

*All:* Amen.

## Postlude

## Dismissal

*Pastor:* Go in peace, stay awake and prepare for His coming.

*All:* Amen.