

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

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**Sunday, December 14, 2025, 9:30am**



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
612 Division St. | La Crosse, WI | 608.782.3468

WWW.OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH.NET

***"Our mission is to make the love of Christ known  
to all as we worship, serve and grow together."***

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All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord, including ongoing work for racial equity in our Church and in the world.

Joanne Richmond, Senior Pastor—[pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)  
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Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist  
Liz Bahr, Cantor | Judi Winkler, Custodian | Roger Loing, Custodian

**Welcome, visitors! We're glad you are here!** We hope your time with us is a blessing, and that you will come back soon.

**We would like to be in touch with you! Visitors**—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form ([www.allarewelcome.org](http://www.allarewelcome.org) under the Live Stream tab) today. **Members**—you only need to fill them out once a year when you receive Holy Communion. **In addition**, use the form for prayer requests, hymn requests, to get the monthly newsletter, to give us address changes, or for any communication with the office or pastor.

If you need **hearing assistance**, ask in the church office for our special devices. If you need **assistance with the live stream**, please call 608.782.3468 or join us on the phone live stream at 1.877.552.3468 (toll-free).

**+FOR OUR WORSHIP TODAY+**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Joanne Richmond

**AV Team:** Gary Wold

**Coffee Fellowship:** JÓLABÓKAFLOÐ & Cookie Potluck

**Communion Assistant:**

**Pianist:** Mary Stutesman

**Prayer Reader:** Dala Hynek

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Christ Be our Morning*

arr. Mary Stutesman

## ADVENT CANDLE #3

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

***On those living in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned.***

Gracious God,

you gave us a reason to celebrate

when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus.

You came to dwell among us.

You went to Calvary's cross for us.

You overcame death and rose from the dead for us.

Our joy is in our Savior, Jesus.

Flood our hearts with joy this Advent season

as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth.

In his name we pray.

**Amen.**

## ADVENT HYMN

*Christ, Be Our Light*

## ELW #715 verse 1 and refrain

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

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

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security you provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God  
awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

† You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
as we prepare to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Rejoice, for Christ Is King!



1 Re - joyce, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **YOUNG PERSON'S MESSAGE**

## **READING: Isaiah 35: 1—10**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne Richmond

## Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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## **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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION    *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*    ELW #247**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works

God of grace, hear us as we sing

**Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.**

**Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith.

God of grace, hear us as we sing

**Come now, O God of love, make us one body.**

**Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work.

God of grace, hear us as we sing

**Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.**

**Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

Draw near to us, God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**NOISY OFFERING**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

**Amen.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

*The Infant Priest*

arr. K. Weber

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## **BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Sunday*

J. Stein

### **LET'S TALK SOLAR: TODAY!**

#### **Sunday, December 14, after worship—Sanctuary (In-Person & Livestream)**

Join us after worship for a brief conversation about an opportunity for Our Savior's to install solar panels. Your presence matters as we prepare for an upcoming congregational vote.

### **JÓLABÓKAFLOÐ TODAY AFTER THE MEETING!**

Come celebrate with us an Icelandic Christmas tradition that started during World War II with cookies and fellowship, too! This event is for all ages (toddler – adult).

### **GIVING TREE**

A reminder to all that today is the last day to return your gifts for New Horizons. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of this great outreach ministry!

### **MEAT THE NEED**

This December, we're collecting canned meat for the **Hunger Task Force of La Crosse**. Items like **tuna, chicken, Spam, beef stew, chili with meat**, and **corned beef hash** are especially appreciated. Please place donations in the grocery cart in the narthex anytime this month. Thank you for helping feed our neighbors!

## **YEAR-END GIVING—HELP US FINISH 2025 STRONG!**

As we look toward the close of the year, we are deeply grateful for the generosity that sustains our ministry. Your gifts make it possible for Our Savior's to bless our neighborhood, our community, and our world in meaningful ways. Thank you for all you do!

### **Ways to Share Your Year-End Gift:**

- **In Worship:** Place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday.
- **Online:** Give through our secure online giving portal on Our Savior's website.
- **By Mail:** Send your gift to *Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PO Box 97, La Crosse, WI 54602-0097.*

### **Important Giving Deadlines:**

- **In-person gifts** must be received by **Sunday, December 28, at 9:30am** to be included on your 2025 giving statement.
- **Online gifts** must be received by **Sunday, December 21** for 2025 credit.
- Gifts received after these dates will be credited to your **2026** giving statement.

Thank you for helping us finish the year with strength, gratitude, and hope! Your faithful support truly makes a difference.

**SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting! Together we will hear leadership reports, reflect on the ministry we've shared over the past year, and vote on the 2026 budget as well as the ballot of individuals recommended to serve on the 2025 Church Council. Your presence and voice matter as we look ahead with faith and hope.

**For Committee Chairs and Organizational Presidents:** Please submit your reports to the church office by **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. If your committee or group manages a checkbook, be sure to include a financial report as well. Thank you for your leadership, your time, and your continued dedication to Our Savior's ministry!

# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

POST ON A FRIG, NEAR A PHONE, ON AN ALTAR AND ANY OTHER SACRED PLACE

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** Congregational Meeting  
**10:45am** Jolabokaflod &  
Christmas Cookie Potluck  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

**Monday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**10am—12 pm** Gas Vouchers

**Tuesday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**1—5pm** WCC open  
**4pm** CFS Doors Open  
**4:15—5:15pm** CFS Meal Served  
**5:15—5:30pm** CFS Carry Outs

**Wednesday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**12 noon** Worship/HC  
**6pm** Church Council

**Thursday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open

**Friday**

**Pastor/Staff Sabbath**

**Saturday**

**9am—1pm** WCC open

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Noisy Offering—Emergency Fund**

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** M-MPC  
**10:15am** Coffee Fellowship  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HEALING AND PEACE

**Ardelle** Ender, **Ardis** Bolstad, **Athena** Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Casey** Kanter, **Cassie**, **Cathy** Ofte, **Cindy** Moe, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Debe**, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane** Spear, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Pastor Joanne**, **Jon**, **Joshua**, **Jim** Garson, **Jim** Radatz, **Juliana** Andrews, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Margo** Erickson, **Mary** Covey, **Michael** Speer, **Monica & Jack** Devereaux, **Morris** Buros, **Pamela** Mathis, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Roger** Loing, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Roy** Modahl, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Pastor Steve** Minnema, **Tom** Cade, and **Vera** Wensole

### GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

**Bill** Temte

### MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

**Ricky** Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<b>Carma</b> Coon	December 15
<b>Brittney</b> Dolan	December 17
<b>Kevin</b> Smaby	December 18
<b>Mark</b> Smaby	December 18
<b>Tyler</b> Deal	December 19
<b>Carol</b> Carlson	December 20
<b>Gene</b> Linse	December 20
<b>Linda</b> Nelson	December 20

#### **Calendar Notations:**

HC—Holy Communion

M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club

CFS—Come For Supper