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Lent 5 | Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6pm

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."**

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
Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
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Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
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 are delighted you have chosen to worship with us today. We will share holy Communion; you are welcome to participate.

We would like to be in touch with you! Visitors—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form (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 Ministry: Gary Wold

Cover Art: *There Is Good* by Hannah Garrity; Inspired by Matthew 23:23;
18"x18" hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay

Pianist: Dr. Eddie Kim

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

ELW #561

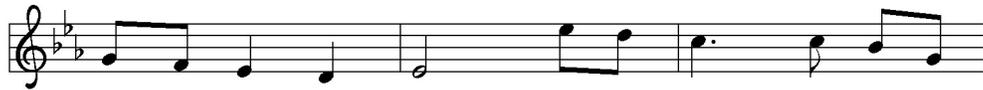
Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God,
who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM 25: 1—10

¹To you, God, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, God;
teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, God, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
**according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, God!**

⁸ Good and upright is God;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ God leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

GOSPEL: Matthew 23: 23

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Joanne Richmond

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Us Remember

ADELAIDE 5.4.5.4 D (“Have Thine Own Way”)

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)



What is im - por - tant? What mat - ters more?
We've been shown mer - cy all of our lives
Fol - low - ing Je - sus, liv - ing in truth
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?



Hu - man con - nec - tion or keep - ing score?
By the cre - a - tor of hu - man - kind
We re - main faith - ful to our roots
To re - main hum - ble, lov - ing, and just



In our pur - suit of jus - tice and truth
So when we're in a po - si - tion to judge
When those roots lead us out - side the lines
Keep - ing the heart of the gos - pel in mind



Let us re - mem - ber: we fall short, too
Let us re - mem - ber: they're just like us
Let us re - mem - ber: faith is a - live
Let us re - mem - ber: do what is right

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them your ways, ways of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and others to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. We pray for the people of Ukraine, for people throughout the Middle East, for the people of Cuba, for the Sudanese, for other nations suffering because of conflict and war.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help people listen deeply to one another, that they might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

For by Grace You Have Been Saved



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
 Music: ARMOLAUULU, Kari Tikka
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DISMISSAL

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world.
Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.

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HOLY WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR'S

Join us as we journey together through Holy Week, reflecting on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to participate in these special services.

Come experience the journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

- **Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30am** : Wave palms and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 12 noon & 6pm**: Remember Jesus' Last Supper and the gift of service.
- **Good Friday, April 3, 12 noon & 6pm**: Reflect on the cross and Christ's sacrifice.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5, 9:30am**: Rejoice in the resurrection with festive worship!

All services are open to the community. Come and experience the hope and renewal of this sacred week.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:15am—Sanctuary

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, April 19, 2026, immediately following worship** to consider two building projects: **replacement of the boiler pumps and motors** and **updates to the church's exterior entry doors**. The church council will bring recommendations for consideration. Please plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP UPDATE

Please note that there will be no Wednesday worship next week (April 1) or Wednesday, April 8 as we gather for special services during Holy Week and Easter.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS

Final days to collect—now through this Sunday

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed! There's still time to help—**complete a full kit** or **bring individual items** to help finish those already started.

Each Personal Care Kit includes:

- 1** light-weight, dark-colored bath towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27")
- 2** bath-size bars of soap (in original wrapping)
- 1** adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 1** metal nail clipper
- 1** sturdy comb

Thank you for helping share comfort, dignity, and hope.

SPARE GAS CANS NEEDED

Our church assists neighbors with gas vouchers when they are in need. Sometimes, however, they don't have a safe way to transport the gasoline. If you have any clean, spare gas cans you're no longer using, please consider donating them to the church so we can pass them along when needed. Donations may be left at the church office. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in practical ways.

YOU'RE INVITED—PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Eat, Enjoy, Support Youth & Family Ministries!

Join us after worship this **Palm Sunday, March 29**, for a delicious breakfast and fellowship! All proceeds benefit Youth & Family Ministries, supporting programs, events, and activities for our young members. Come enjoy good food, great company, and celebrate our youth together. Everyone is welcome!

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST SETUP—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to help set up for our Palm Sunday Breakfast! If you're able to lend a hand, please join us this **Saturday, March 28 at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Your help will ensure everything is ready for this special celebration. Everyone is welcome, and any time you can give is appreciated!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the church office will be closed Monday, April 6, 2026 in observance of Easter. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 7 at 9am.

DORCAS SOCIETY

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30pm—Fellowship Hall

Join us for the April meeting as we gather for a regular business meeting. Your ideas and participation are always appreciated! Whether you attend regularly or joining us for the first time, you are warmly invited to come and be part of the conversation and community.

We are also still accepting Christmas items for November's annual Christmas Bazaar—feel free to bring donations with you to the meeting.

Fifth Sunday in Lent
the good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness



There Is Good

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 23:23

18"x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay

In this series of scriptures, gathered crowds drew my attention.¹⁹ Jesus always drew a crowd, but so did the voices of hate in his time. In our current historic moment, this dichotomy of crowds for justice and crowds for injustice confounds me. Are all crowds worthy of joining? In the background of this piece, I dyed and collaged together torn newspaper, representing the fabric of the world, to portray the cacophony of crowds gathering. What is drawing them in? Is everything that compels us to gather right and good? No.

The clarity comes in this scripture: "For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (Matthew 23:23). Most especially, in the context of Jesus denouncing the scribes and Pharisees, the crucial point is that gathering to enact justice *is* good and gathering to enact injustice *is not*.

The crowd depicted in this artwork is inspired by the 100,000 who gathered strong in Budapest, Hungary, in June, 2025. The Hungarian parliament had outlawed Pride as part of a larger systemic effort to take away the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary, and a "wider effort to curb democratic freedoms ahead of a hotly contested national election next year."²⁰

In the four corners of the artwork, symbols of justice, mercy, and faithfulness echo the clarity of Jesus. Gathering for justice is the work of the gospel. —Hannah Garrity

Look

If you could place yourself in this image, where would you be and why?

¹⁹ In Matthew 23, Jesus is preaching to the crowds and disciples, denouncing the hypocrisy of many religious leaders.

²⁰ Rutai, Lili. "Tens of thousands defy Hungary's ban on Pride in protest against Orbán." The Guardian. June 28, 2025. [theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/tens-of-thousands-defy-hungarys-ban-on-pride-in-protest-against-orban](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/tens-of-thousands-defy-hungarys-ban-on-pride-in-protest-against-orban).

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Fifth Wednesday of Lent

9am—1pm Office Open
12 noon Worship/HC
5:30pm Soup Supper
6pm Worship/HC

Thursday

9am—1pm Office Open

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

9am—1pm WCC Open
10am—12 noon Breakfast Set-Up

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am Palm Sunday Breakfast
10:15am Council Meeting
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

9am—1pm Office Open

Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion
M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club
CFS—Come For Supper
WCC—Women's Clothes Closet

PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALING AND PEACE

Ardelle Ender, **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 & Michael** Speer, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Pastor Joanne**, **Jon** Zinniel, **Joshua**, **Jim** Garson, **Jim** Radatz, **Juliana** Andrews, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Mary** Covey, **Monica & Jack** D., **Morris** Buros, **Pamela** Mathis, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Roger** Loing, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Pastor Steve** Minnema, and **Tom** Cade

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

Vera Wensole and **Kaye** Kjome

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Ricky Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brittany Taylor	March 25
Virgina Bentzen	March 29
Theresa Cravens	March 29
Jeff Franko	March 29
Louise Temte	March 30
Jenifer Bahr	March 31
Colleen Cartwright	March 31