



**Advent 3**

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**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

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)

Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—[finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)

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Mary Ender Stutesman, Music Coordinator & Organist—[stuteswoman@gmail.com](mailto:stuteswoman@gmail.com)

Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—[youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)

Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist

Juan Fernandez, 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 & Deb Wold

**Communion Assistant:** Cheryl Vieth

**Pianist:** Mary Ender Stutesman

**Prayer Reader:** Sue Staples

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## 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.

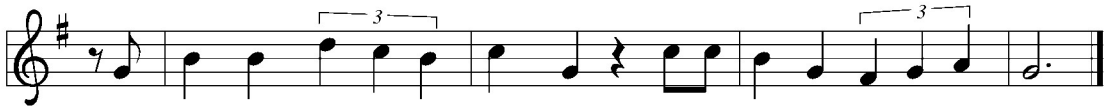
In his name we pray.

**Amen.**

## 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

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

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.

**Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

**Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

ELW #242 vs. 1, 2, 4

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 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.

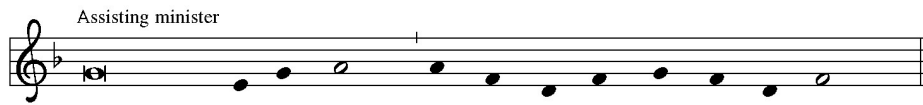
**Lord, have mercy.**

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, amen.**



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, 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,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3: 7—18**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUNG PERSON'S MESSAGE**

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #249 vs. 1, 3, 5

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## **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**

*(Response to each petition is from ELW #741, Your Will Be Done.)*

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 bearing fruit. Raise up leaders who proclaim the good news.

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.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

**Your will be done on earth, O Lord. (sung 5x)**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers to take 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.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people with love.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

**Your will be done on earth, O Lord. (sung 5x)**

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.

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.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

**Your will be done on earth, O Lord. (sung 5x)**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **NOISY OFFERING FOR THE EMERGENCY FUND**

### **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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**



Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 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  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 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  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PRELUDE**

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## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Celebrate Christmas with us at Our Savior's!

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

**Tuesday, December 24—7pm**

Join us for a traditional candlelight service in a warm, family-friendly atmosphere. We'll celebrate the joy of Christ's birth with hymns, communion, and the soft glow of candlelight.

### **Christmas Day Worship**

**Wednesday, December 25—9:30am**

Come together on Christmas morning to celebrate our Savior's birth. Enjoy carols hear the Christmas story, and partake in communion. All are welcome in worship and at communion.

### **Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday**

**Sunday, December 29—9:30am**

Wrap up the holiday season with a lighthearted worship service! Don your brightest, loudest, and most glittering Christmas sweaters as we sing, pray, and laugh together, ringing in the new year with a little "joy to the world!"

We look forward to celebrating these special sacred moments with you!

## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Today! Fellowship Hall, 10:30am**—Please join us after worship today for a special meeting of the congregation to discuss remodeling of the altar area in the sanctuary for accessibility.

## **JOLABOKAFLOD (ICELANDIC BOOK FLOOD) TODAY**

**Today! Fellowship Hall, 10:15am**—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).

**CHRISTMAS 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!

## **ADVENT GAME NIGHT: HOLIDAY EDITION TONIGHT**

**Tonight! Fellowship Hall, 4:30—6:30pm**—Join us for games, snacks, and holiday fun. Feel free to bring a dish or game to share!

## **THE LONGEST NIGHT—A CANDLELIGHT LABYRINTH**

**Saturday, December 21, 2024, 5pm—Peace Garden**

Celebrate the official start of winter with a cherished tradition: walking the labyrinth by candlelight. For centuries, labyrinths have served as a powerful tool for meditation, prayer, and reflection, guiding us to a deeper sense of inner peace. Join us any time between 5:00 and 6:00 pm to experience this calming journey. Walk the candlelit path as many times as you like and take moments to pause and reflect. Warm up by the campfire with a cup of hot cider and let the quiet of the evening bring you comfort. In this busy season, come and find stillness. Go slow, go deep, and become present. Embrace the opportunity to look ahead and reflect on the year to come. People of all faiths and spiritual paths are warmly welcome. *What insights might you discover on the longest night of the year?*

## **YEAR-END GIVING—HELP US FINISH 2024 STRONG!**

Your generosity allows us to have a positive impact on our neighborhood, community, and the world.

For your end-of-year gifts:

- 1) Leave your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday
- 2) Use our on-line giving portal, by going to Our Savior's website: <https://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/make-a-contribution/>
- 3) Use our secure mailing address: "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PO Box 97, La Crosse, WI 54602-0097".

*Gifts to Our Savior's must be received by **Sunday, December 29 by 9:30am** to be included on your 2024 giving statement. Any gifts received after the 29th will be credited to your 2024 giving statement. Thank you!*

## **SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

Come hear leadership reports, discuss the ministry of Our Savior's, and vote funding the 2025 budget and the ballot of individuals to serve on the church council for 2025.

*To all committee chairs and organizational presidents, please turn in your reports to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. If your committee or organization has a checkbook please include a financial report as well. Thank you!*

# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

## CALENDAR

### Advent 3—Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

#### Noisy Offering—Emergency Fund

- 9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** Cookie Potluck  
Jólabókaflóðir  
Icelandic “Book Flood”  
**10:30am** Congregational mtg.  
**4:30pm** Advent Game Night  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

### Monday

- 9am—1pm** Office Open  
**10am—12 noon** 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

**Church Office Closed**  
**Pastor/Staff Sabbath**

### Saturday

- 9am—1pm** WCC Open  
**5—7pm** Candlelight Labyrinth

### Advent 4—Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024

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

#### Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion  
CFS—Come For Supper  
WCC—Women's Clothes Closet

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HEALING AND PEACE

**Athena** Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Carol** Kant, **Casey** Kanter, **Cindy** Moe, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane** Speer, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Jim** Garson, **Joyce** Gosman, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Kilian** Crary, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Mary** Covey, **Monica & Jack**, **Morris** Buros, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Pete** Harman, **Rich** Pitz, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Theo** Abnet, **Tom** Cade, **Vera** Wensole, and **Vickie** Hengel

### GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

**Marilyn** Carroll and **Bev** Paar

### MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

**Gabriel** W. Kleven, **Greg** Phillips, **Ricky** Macon, **Stacie** Phillips, and **Tom** Rudrud

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<b>Carma</b> Coon	December 15
<b>Cindy</b> Vieth	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