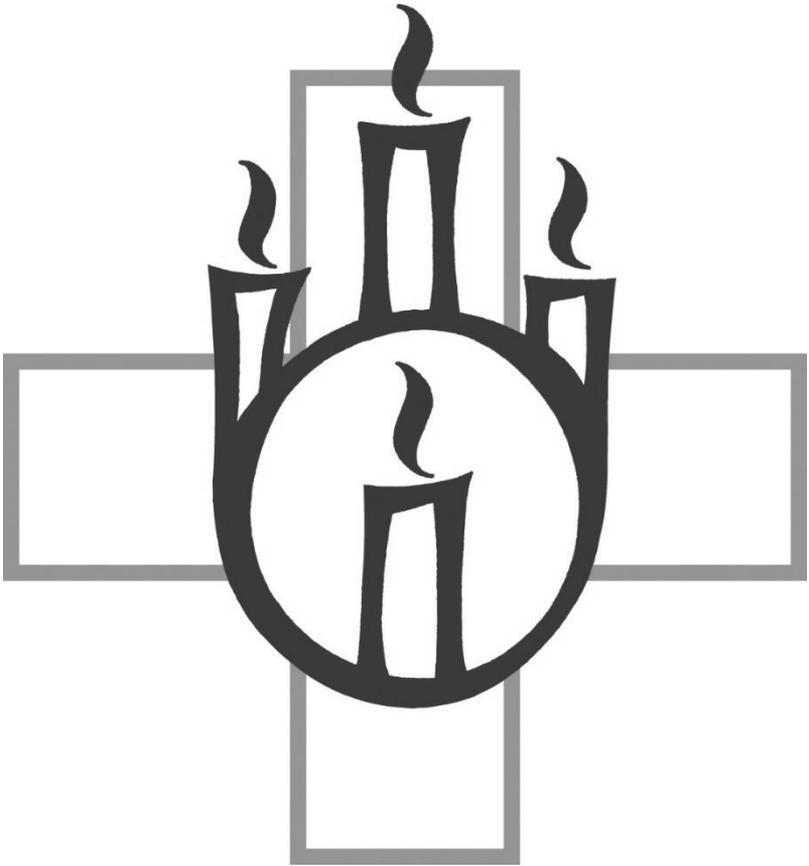


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Order of Worship

*December 24, 2023 9:00 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

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## Introit

*Isaiah 45:8a, b; Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down  
righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.  
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his  
handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of  
them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

## Communion Theology and Practice

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is intended for those:

- who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God,
- who have faith in Jesus Christ as God the Son in the flesh and their personal Savior from sin, death, and the devil;
- who believe that they have sin that needs forgiving, hurt that needs healing, and faith that needs strengthening;
- who are committed to amending their sinful ways; and
- who believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of the risen Christ, together with the forgiveness of all their sins.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the  
Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

*Thank you.*

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

## Divine Service, Setting Two

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Opening Hymn

### Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way; The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heads God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 89:1–5, 19–29*

*Spoken responsively*

- <sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**<sup>2</sup>For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

<sup>3</sup>You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

**<sup>4</sup>I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.”**

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**<sup>19</sup>Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:  
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

<sup>20</sup>I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,

**<sup>21</sup>so that my hand shall be established with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.**

<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him;  
the wicked shall not humble him.

**<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.**

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

**<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.**

<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

**<sup>27</sup>And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.**

<sup>28</sup>My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

**<sup>29</sup>I will establish his offspring forever  
and his throne as the days of the heavens.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
  
- P** Let us pray.  
 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in

a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**



# Hymn of the Day

## Glory Be to God the Father

LSB 506



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to  
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each  
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the  
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise c - ter - nal! Thus the choir of



God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it;  
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,  
Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;  
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,  
Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,  
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!  
glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!  
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

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## Sermon

“There’s a Miracle Here”

Luke 1:26–38



## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Response after each petition*

- P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

- C** **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,**

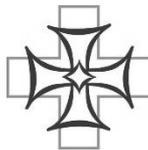
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- C** **Amen.**



# A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383 sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and Tune: Public domain

## Postlude



## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

24 December 2023

### Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

### ***The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh***

When King David *“lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,”* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, *“conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary”* (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate *“Son of the Most High,”* receives *“the throne of his father David”* and begins to reign *“over the house of Jacob forever”* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *“the mystery that was kept secret for long ages”* but is now *“made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God”* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).



**Readings**

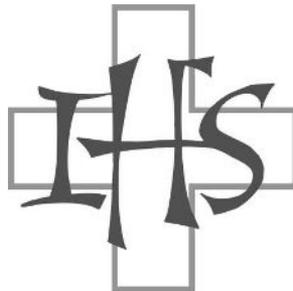
Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40

***The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord***

*“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,”* born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, *“according to the Law of Moses,”* Mary and Joseph *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *“At that very hour,”* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *“began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (Is. 61:11). We also *“greatly rejoice in the LORD,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).



# **Advent, Christmas & New Year's Worship**

*Please join us in worship in this new Church Year*



## **Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **Christmas Day Worship**

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am



## **New Year's Eve Worship**

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm