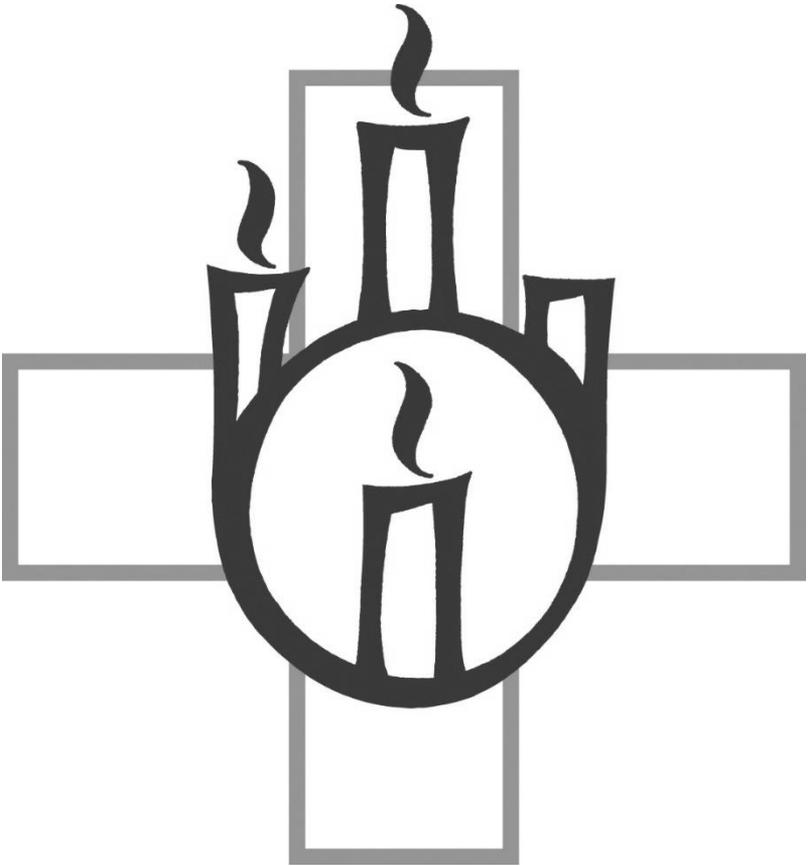


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



## Order of Worship

*December 14, 2025 10:45 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org      781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

email: [pastor@lcsavior.org](mailto:pastor@lcsavior.org)

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## Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

## 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.*

# Third Sunday in Advent

## Divine Service

Welcome

**Opening Song** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Wesley*

*Verse 1, Verse 2*

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
  
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.

**C** **We have not lived our lives according to your will.**

**P** We have failed to live up to your expectations.

**C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

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

**P** Hear us now, O Lord, as we confess our sins to you:

**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  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir-its lure. On - ward in His foot-steps tread-ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter,  
 us im - mor-tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem-bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid-ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav-en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 5*

**A** Together, we speak Psalm 146 responsively:

*Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
 whose hope is in the LORD his God.*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

<sup>4</sup>**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;**

**on that very day his plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;**

**<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**☩ 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.**

*Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God.*

## Collect of the Day

**☩** Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to  
lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for  
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

<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 singing.

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 have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters 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;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not 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 gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

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

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

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

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–15*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

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

## Nicene Creed

**C** **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.**

Sit

**Song of the Day**

Prepare The Way

*Evans, Nuzum*

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x2

VERSE



1. He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_  
2. He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_



to bring light in - to the dark -  
to bring hope \_\_\_\_\_ to the hope -



ness; He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_ to bring  
less; He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_ to



free - dom to \_\_\_\_\_ the cap - tives; He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_ to re -  
com - fort all \_\_\_\_\_ who mourn; \_\_\_\_\_ He has \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_ to



store the bro - ken - heart - ed; It's time to pro -  
heal our ev - 'ry sick - ness; It's time to pro -

15 CHORUS

claim the year of the Lord. Pre - pare the way,  
 claim the year of the Lord.

19  
 pre - pare the way for our Re - deem -

22  
 er; Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way

25  
 for our Re - stor - er; Make read - y your heart, make

28  
 read - y your home, make read - y the peo - ple of

30 1  
 God; Pre - pare the way, 2. He has come

35 2  
 God; Pre - pare the way, 3  
 God; Pre - pare the way.

## Sermon



## Rite of Confirmation

## Prayers of the Church Family and the Lord's Prayer

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

*Response after each petition*

- L** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**C** **Amen.**

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

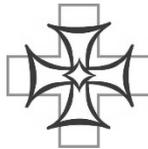
**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us 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.**



*Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus, Bridge, Verse 4*

*Verse 1*

His robe was dipped in blood,  
Spilled for the souls of men;  
For the one who says there is no God,  
Let him come, let him come and behold the Lord.

*Verse 2*

He gives the weak and poor  
The key the Heaven's door;  
Some day when He returns  
He will dry every tear for every eye.

*Chorus*

So make way for the King  
In all of His Glory;  
Make way for the King,  
High and lifted up;  
O, make way, make way for the King;  
Make way, make way for the King.

*Verse 3*

His hands and feet were scarred,  
All from a wounded heart;  
And the light of His great love will shine,  
And the dark of the night will become the day.

*Chorus*

So make way for the King  
In all of His Glory;  
Make way for the King,  
High and lifted up;  
O, make way, make way for the King;  
Make way, make way for the King.  
Make way, make way for the King.  
Make way, make way for the King.

*continued on next page*

### *Bridge*

Come and save us, Hosannah Lord.  
Come and save us, Hosannah Lord.  
Come and save us, Hosannah Lord.  
Hosannah in the highest.  
Hosannah in the highest.  
Hosannah in the highest  
Blessed Jesus is He.

### *Verse 4*

His robe was dipped in blood,  
Spilled for the souls of men;  
For the one who says there is no God,  
Let him come, let him come and behold the Lord.

### **Acknowledgments**

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“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus” - Lutheran Service Book #685

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

21 December 2025

### Readings

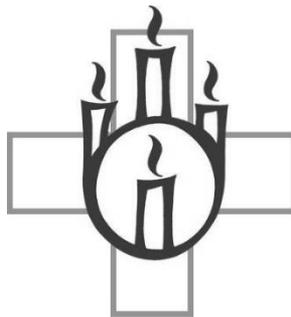
Isaiah 7:10–17

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

### ***God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary***

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that *"the virgin shall conceive and bear a son"* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus *"descended from David according to the flesh"* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called *"Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *"did as the angel of the Lord commanded him"* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.



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

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



## **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## **Open Arms Christian Preschool Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm



## **Christmas Eve Worship**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

## **Christmas Day Worship**

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



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

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

## **The Lutheran Church of the Savior**

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