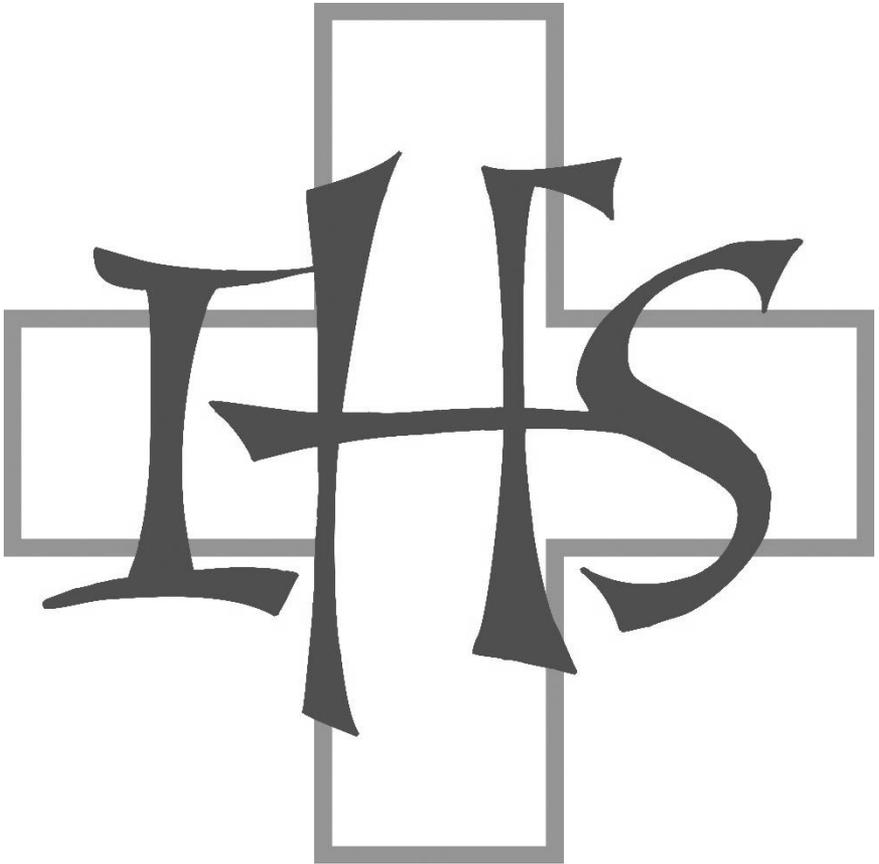


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



## Order of Worship

*December 28, 2025 9:00 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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<https://www.lcsavior.org>

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## Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!

# First Sunday after Christmas

Divine Service

Welcome

## Opening Song

We Adore You

*Baloche, Janis*

*Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus*

**VERSE**

Ho - ly Child, Em - man - u - el; \_\_\_  
3 hope of all \_\_\_ the a - ges, \_\_\_ and the cry of ev - 'ry heart. \_\_\_ Bow - ing  
5 down, we lift \_\_\_ You up; \_\_\_ You're the One \_\_\_ we wor - ship, \_\_\_  
8 **CHORUS**  
You're the One \_\_\_ we love. \_\_\_ We a - dore \_\_\_ You, we a -  
10 dore \_\_\_ You, we a - dore \_\_\_ You, Je -  
12 sus. We a - dore \_\_\_ You, we a -  
14 dore \_\_\_ You, we a - dore \_\_\_ You, Je - sus.

## 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.**

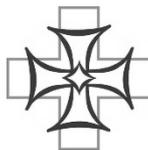
*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**



**Song**

**Ancient Words**

DeShazo

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus x2, Verse 4, Chorus x2, Ending

VERSE 1



1. Ho-ly— words long pre - served for our walk in this world;—



— They re-sound— with God's own heart, O, let the

§ VERSES 2, 3 & 4



an-cient words im - part; 2. Words of life, words of  
(3.) words of our  
(4.) blood stains each



hope, give us strength,— help\_ us cope;—  
faith hand - ed down\_\_\_\_\_ to\_ this age,—  
page, they have died\_\_\_\_\_ for\_ this faith;—



— In this world\_\_\_ wher - e'er we  
— came to us\_\_\_ through sac - ri -  
— Hear them cry\_\_\_ through the



roam, an - cient words will guide us home.  
fice; O, heed the faith - ful words of Christ.  
years; Heed these words and hold them dear.

CHORUS



An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing



you; We have come with o - pen hearts, O let the

*continued on next page*

an-cient words im - part. 3. Ho-ly\_ part. An-cient

CHORUS

words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing you; We have

2nd time to Coda ☩

come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im - part.

INSTRUMENTAL D.S. al Coda

☩ Coda ENDING 4. Mar - tyr's\_

part. We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the

an - cient words im - part.

O let the an - cient words im - part.

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b*

**A** Together, we speak Psalm 111 responsively:

*<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.*

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

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD,**

**studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup>He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

**<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**<sup>8</sup>they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!**

**C 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.**

<sup>9</sup>*He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.*

## **Collect of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 63:7–14*

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel  
that he has granted them according to his compassion,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely."  
And he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup>In all their affliction he was afflicted,  
and the angel of his presence saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

<sup>10</sup>But they rebelled  
and grieved his Holy Spirit;  
therefore he turned to be their enemy,  
and himself fought against them.

<sup>11</sup>Then he remembered the days of old,  
of Moses and his people.  
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea  
with the shepherds of his flock?  
Where is he who put in the midst of them  
his Holy Spirit,

<sup>12</sup>who caused his glorious arm  
to go at the right hand of Moses,  
who divided the waters before them  
to make for himself an everlasting name,

<sup>13</sup>who led them through the depths?  
Like a horse in the desert,  
they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup>Like livestock that go down into the valley,  
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.  
So you led your people,  
to make for yourself a glorious name.

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

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

## Epistle

*Galatians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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

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

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:13–23*

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

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

<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over

Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

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

## Nicene Creed

**G** 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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

Song of the Day

In Christ Alone

Townend, Getty

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is  
 2. In Christ a - lone! who took on  
 3. There in the ground His bod - y  
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in

found, He is my light, my strength, my  
 flesh, Ful - ness of God in help - - - less  
 lay, Light of the world by dark - - - ness  
 death, This is the pow'r of Christ in

song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
 babel This gift of love and right - eous -  
 slain; Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
 me; From life's first cry to fin - al

Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and  
 ness, Scorned by the ones He came to  
 Day Up from the grave He rose a -  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - - - ti -

storm. What heights of love, what depths of  
 save; Till on that cross as Je - sus  
 gain! And as He stands in vic - to -  
 ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

peace, When fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
 died, The wrath of God was sat - is -  
 ry, Sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 man, Can ev - er pluck me from His

ceasel My Com - for - ter, my All in  
 fied For - ev - 'ry sin on Him was  
 me, For I am His and He is  
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me

All, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.  
 mine Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

## Sermon



### 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.**

# What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
Tune: English, 16th cent.  
Text and Tune: Public domain



## **Acknowledgments**

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

28 December 2025

### Readings

Isaiah 63:7–14

Galatians 4:4–7

Matthew 2:13–23

### ***The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins***

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must *"take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt"* (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He *"had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'"* (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing *"his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses"* (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. *"He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them"* (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we *"receive adoption as sons"* in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: *"Abba! Father!"* (Gal. 4:4–6).



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

4 January 2026

### Readings

1 Kings 3:4–15

Ephesians 1:3–14

Luke 2:40–52

### ***The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church***

The Lord Jesus *“grew and became strong”* (Luke 2:40); He *“increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man”* (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might *“have redemption through his blood”* (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up *“to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover”* (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in *“the word of truth, the gospel,”* by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain *“an understanding mind”* to go about our vocations, discerning *“between good and evil”* (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem to stand *“before the ark of the covenant of the Lord”* (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

