



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

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March 10, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT **Transformative Joy**

Order of Worship

The order of worship is set out in this bulletin. The congregation responds in parts marked in bold. Hymns are taken from our hymnal, the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, (ELW).

WE GATHER

Centering Music

The ringing of *the Morningstar*

Prelude

Call To Worship

People of God,
we gather for worship to practice joy:
not because our lives are perfect,
but because joy is resilient,
God's gift for every season
and the wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy,
we practice joy.
When floods rise and fall,
we practice joy.
When hope surprises us,
we practice joy.
When God sets people free,
we practice joy.
When Jesus heals us,
we practice joy.
When we are called,
we practice joy.

When we endure,
we practice joy.
We practice joy together,
and God is with us.

Call To Confession

People of God,
the Merciful One already knows everything we confess.
By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness,
we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another.
Let's bring before God what we have done wrong
and what we've failed to do,
trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

Brief silence for reflection

Prayer of Confession

God of abundant goodness,
we have hurt those we love,
those far from us,
ourselves,
and your creation
by what we do and by what we neglect.
We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures
and refuse to enjoy what you give.
We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship
plague our neighbors.
We ignore the gift of your presence
in times both tragic and triumphant.
Forgive us for what we have done
and for what we have failed to do.
Pour out on us the joy of your presence
and heal what we have harmed.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, receive these joyful words:
You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.
You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.
You are released to live out God's love
in a world that needs such joy.
Amen.

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House

WONDROUS LOVE

129 66 129

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all


And also with you.

Now the Feast

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



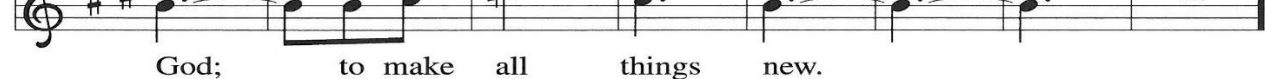
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Let us pray.

God of impossible things, you teach us where healing is found: in clarity, in honesty, in the cross. You made us for goodness, not harm, and laid a path toward renewal. Show us joy in the heart of despair. Heal us to be healers in your wounded world. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

4From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

²¹Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

²²Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

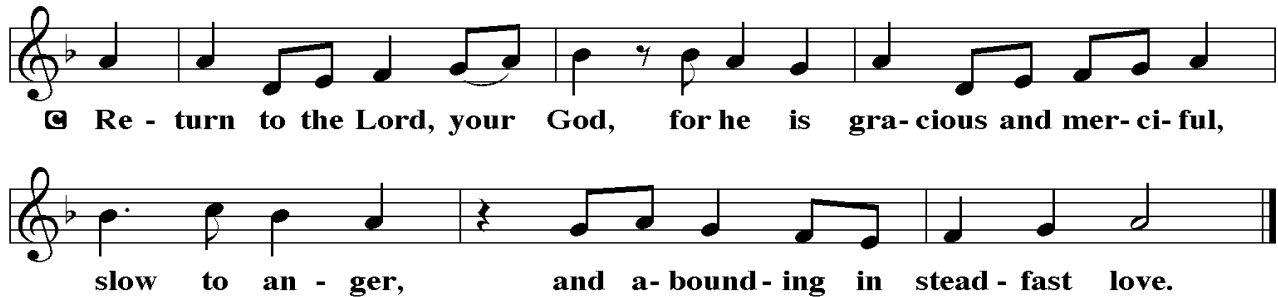
²You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together

with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Lenten Verse



The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

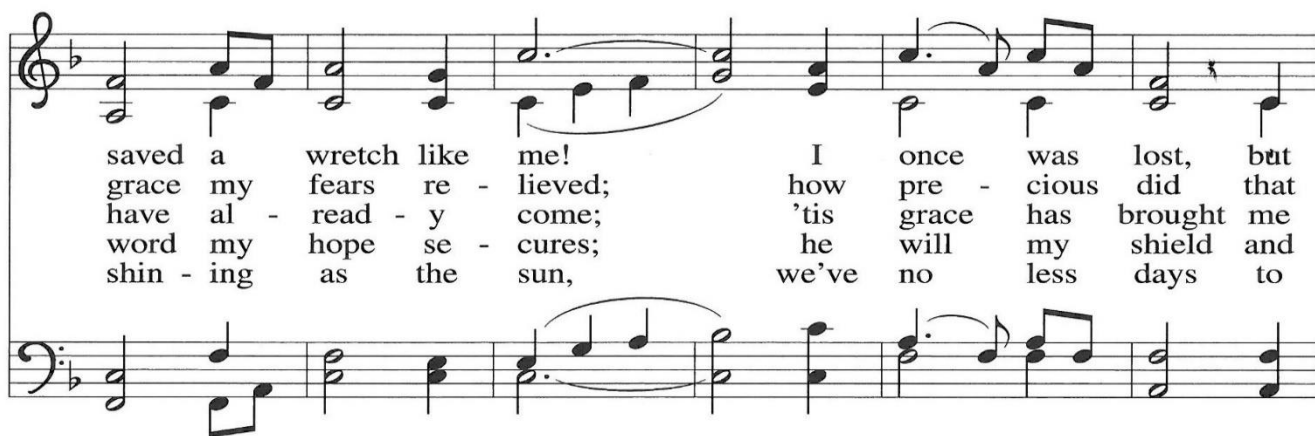
Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound

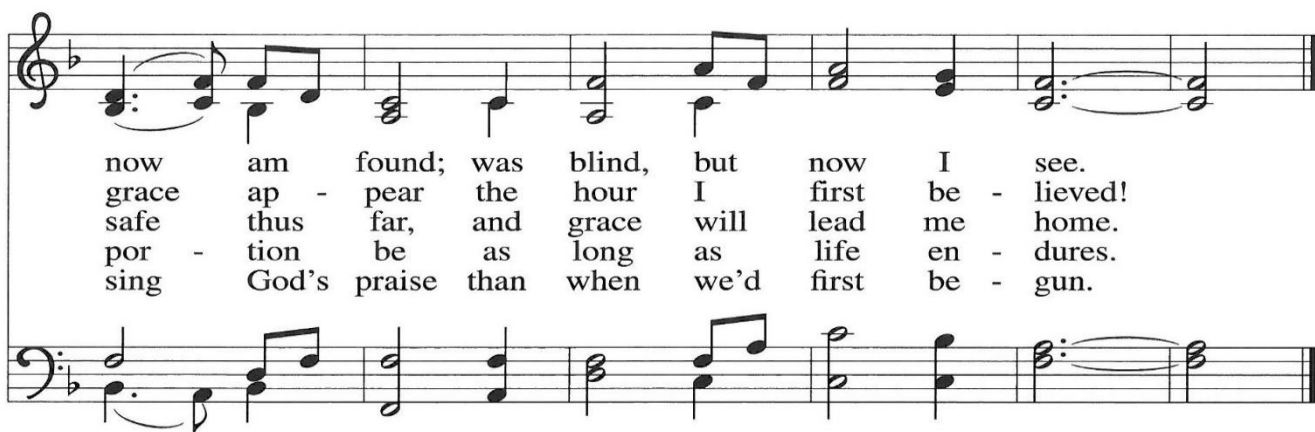
ELW#779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the People

God of mercy and grace, you are present. You are within each person here and you are among us as your gathered people. Trusting in your presence, your promises, and your joy, even when we cannot perceive them, we bring to you our gratitude for all you have done, and the burdens that weigh on our hearts.

We pray for creation.

Thank you for its beauty and bounty and for the ways it reminds us of your presence... *(Name specific places or events for which your congregation is grateful: a sunny day, needed rainfall, a local park, a nearby waterway, flowers beginning to sprout, the joy of pets and animal companions.)*

Guide the work of those who advocate for the wellness of your wondrous creation, and help us to better tend and keep it. We pray for all habitats, creatures, and peoples harmed by natural disasters... *(Name those impacted locally or worldwide this week.)*

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for the nations and their leaders.

Thank you for cooperation among world leaders and for the ways people work together for the wellbeing of everyone. *(Name a recent, specific example.)*

We pray for places that know violence, famine, and economic hardship... *(Name one or more places here.)* Pour out your spirit of wisdom on all who govern, that they will care for the most vulnerable and work for the good of those they vowed to serve.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for peace throughout the earth.

Thank you for the gift of peace. We pray that you send peace with power into our world, our neighborhoods, *(name your specific community)*, our hearts, and our homes. Bring an end to gun violence. Stop cycles of domestic abuse. Give peace to every nation. *(Name local or national instances of violence or specific places in need of peace.)*

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for those who are vulnerable.

Thank you for giving us gifts to share with others. Bring justice to anyone who has been used or abused. Feed those who are hungry for food or for companionship. House those who need shelter. Protect those who live in fear. *(Name specific prayers for vulnerable people in your community.)* Work through our hands and hearts to provide for them.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for the church.

Thank you for the goodness we know when we gather as your people, for the gifts of community, shared ministry, and the chance to pray for and with one another. We thank you for the work of the church around the world... *(Name an international ministry, perhaps from your denomination.)* ...and for the ways in which the church is at work close to home... *(Name national and/or local denominational leaders, judicatories, or ministry efforts.)* Renew us in the promises of baptism and draw us into closer relationships with other people of faith.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for healing and wholeness.

Thank you for gifts of healing and recovery... *(Name any among your congregation who have experienced healing.)* We pray for all those known to us in need of healing and wholeness...

(Name individuals or groups of people for whom your congregation has been asked to pray: the homebound, those who are ill or injured, those in need of mental health support, those who are seeking recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, those who are lonely, those who mourn.)

God of unending joy,

answer us.

God of abundant life, you bring a quiet, constant joy to our most trying times. Remind us of your goodness in grief and your presence in pain. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

Offering

Financial offerings are received in the plates. Please stand as the gifts come forward.



Musical Offering

Please Stand

Offertory Canticle

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Prayer Of Dedication

God of mercy and grace,
you give us so much:
our days, our loved ones,
our passions and talents,
the food we eat, the homes we know,
a place to worship.

God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.
Bless them and bless us,
that we will give generously,
love boldly, and share widely,
our offering reflecting your joyful gift.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God is with you.

And also with you.

Rejoice with full hearts.

We offer them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God, there is no time, no place where you are not present,
and there is no time, no place
where we should not practice the joy of praising you:
even here, even now, in our ordinary lives.
As we give thanks, we join the choir of our ancestors and our heirs
and all God's angels as they time their breath to the rhythm of joy
and sing of heaven despite the world.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy.

Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.

Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future
in a covenant promise.

Moses cradled your law in his arms
and the Israelites found wilderness life
where they should have died.

The prophets read your faithfulness
traced indelibly on their hearts.

Your love sent us Jesus
and his persistent, irrational joy:
dripping with the Jordan's baptismal flood,
teaching in the crowd's beating heart,
tossing the tables of empire and profit,
falling like a seed into warm dark soil
as he offered his life for us all.

On the last night of his life, as evening fell,

Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.

He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
This is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended, the shadows closing in,
Jesus took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone 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.

In the heart of fear and pain,
God plants the seed of our joy:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
Christ's body and blood,
the food that gives us the strength to persist
until joy appears.

Send your Spirit upon us
and fortify us to be your body, too,
a wellspring of hope for a world in need.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,
God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy,
today and every day. **Amen.**

The 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**

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please Sit

The Distribution

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

All the baptized are invited to come forward to receive the holy gifts. Those not receiving may come forward for a blessing or remain in the pews in prayer.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen

Post-Communion Sentence

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Blessing

Go with blessing.

The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos
weaves joy within your own heart.
The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows
travels right beside you.
The One who whispers joy to our hearts
is present within you.

You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One.

Amen.



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Charge

Practice joy.

As you leave this place,
go with the joy that transforms.

Thanks be to God

Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Worship Service Today

Greeters/UshersTBD
Lector.....John Magerlein
Worship Assistant....Deacon Elect LeeAnn McCarthy
HospitalityKeil Family
Altar Guild.....Karen Polacek
Offering Teller.....Karen Magerlein



Altar Flowers

*No
Flower Dedications*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we give thanks for the talents of Eleanor Keil, who will be playing the organ for this mornings service.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm:

Each week in Lent, there will be a weekly devotional to go along with our theme of Seeds of Joy. There will also be a weekly Bible study on Google Meet

Weekly Bible Study at 7:00PM Wednesdays on “Unlearning Bad Theology.”

There will be a recorded lecture version of the Wednesday study on our Facebook page on Thursday on the same topic.

Weekly Devotional Readings & Next Sunday’s Readings

Monday: Exodus 15:22-27; Hebrews 3:1-6; Psalm 107:1-16.

Tuesday: Psalm 107:1-16; Numbers 20:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13.

Wednesday: Psalm 107:1-16; John 8:12-20; Isaiah 60:15-22.

Thursday: Psalm 51:1-12; Isaiah 30:15-18; Hebrews 4:1-13.

Friday: Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-5:4.

Saturday: Habakkuk 3:2-13; Psalm 51:1-12; John 12:1-11.

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 17:

**Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; Psalm 51:1-12;
John 12:20-33.**

Those With Special Needs & Concerns

Other Concerns of Our Community

PRAYER LIST

Arlita Hoyt
Christine Olszanski
Kolbe Olszanski
Deanna Platt
Bob Riekert

SERVING IN ARMED FORCES

Michael Gabrielsen
Jack O’Brien
John Picucci

Bishop Paul Egensteiner and his staff.
For those who would dare to bring peace.
For the President and his administration.
Communities of Faith in & around
Croton.
For refugees suffering in camps around
the world.
For food to feed all those who hunger.

*Remember
In Prayer* 

Welcome to Our Saviour

Do you want to live life to its fullest? Do you want to have resources to cope with the challenges of life? Since his disciples first followed him, Jesus' teachings and example have been providing enduring answers for life's most troubling questions. Jesus' life was given for us. His life remains a gift to be received and God's Word through him waits to be heard. Come and see! The Lord is good!

Our Saviour is a safe, friendly, welcoming place for you and your family to hear Good News and find warm, caring community. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, political affiliations, sexual orientations and gender identities or expressions. We invite you to join us in any or all of the activities. Please ask any member for further details.

You will find the Order of Worship set out in this bulletin. You will also find a schedule of devotional readings and next Sunday's scripture set out inside the back cover.

HOLY COMMUNION: All are invited to the Lord's Table, as Jesus welcomed all without condition, to commune with Him. You need not be Lutheran or a church member. Young children may receive at their parents' discretion.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Justin Johnson, Pastor

Phill Greenland, Music Minister

Sunday School

9:00 am

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 am

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon;
Wed, Sat & Sun: by appointment; Thurs & Friday: Pastor's Days Off.

Church Secretary's Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Fri: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Church Office Phone: 914-271-4632 **Pastor's Phone:** 914 863-1601

<http://www.oursaviourcroton.org>

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Our Saviour

Your Saviour

Our Saviour

