



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

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March 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT **Vocational 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.

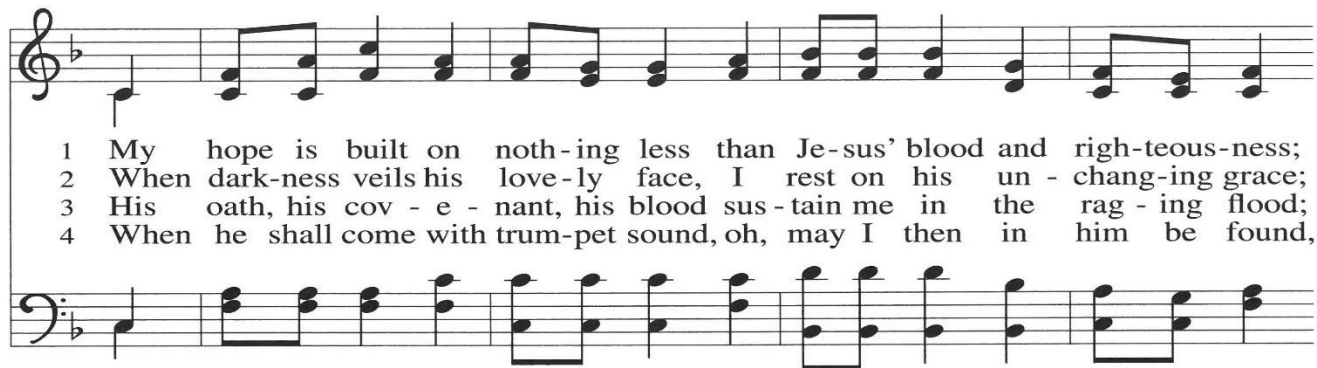
Brief silence for reflection

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.

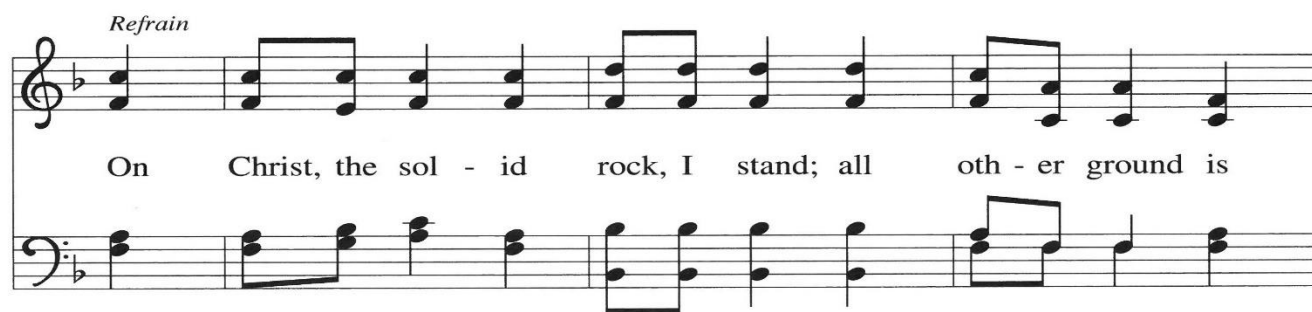


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

THE SOLID ROCK
8888888

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.

Holy Voice, your call resonates in the depth of our being, urging us toward places where others need help. Give us the courage to say yes to you today. Pour joy into the places where our gifts meet your invitation. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

5So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; 6as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” 7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Lenten Verse

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

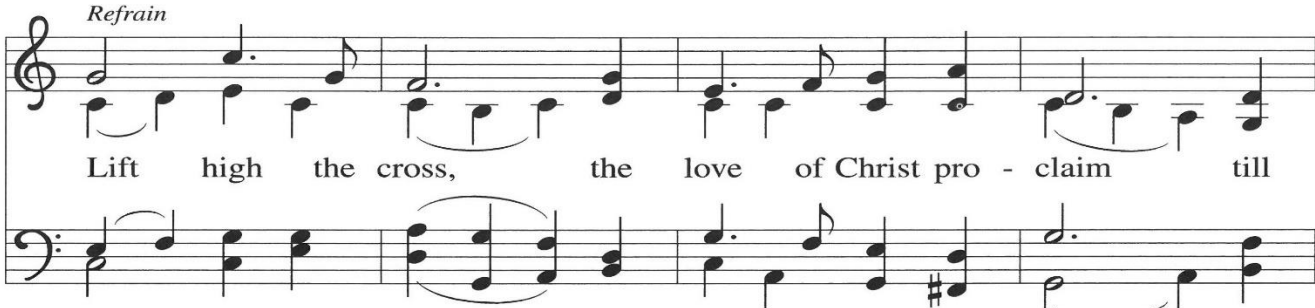
²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

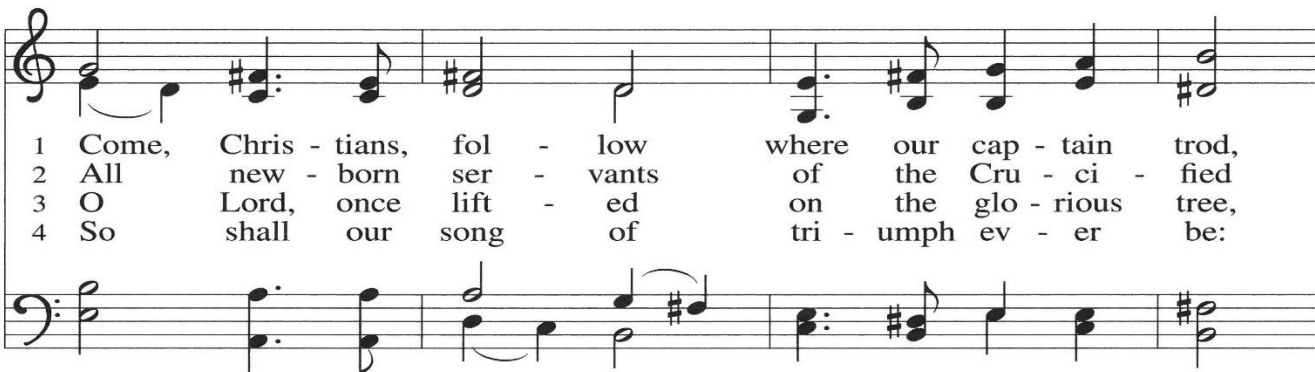
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

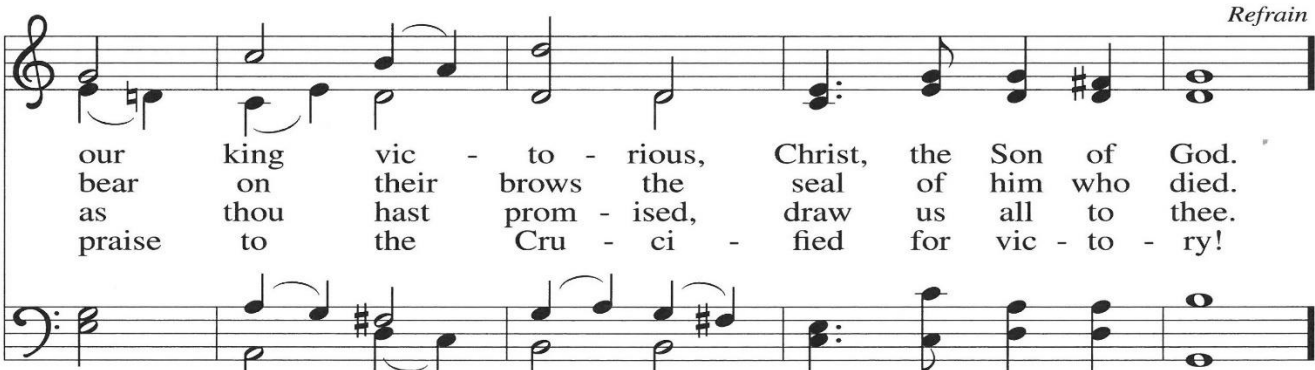


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,
 for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - day's.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Charge

Practice joy.

As you leave this place,
 go with the joy that fills life with meaning.

Thanks be to God.**Postlude**

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Worship Service Today

Greeters/UshersTBD
Lector.....TBD
Worship Assistant...Deacon Elect LeeAnn McCarthy
HospitalityLeeAnn McCarthy
Altar Guild.....Sue Orts
Offering Teller.....Frya Barnes



Altar Flowers

No Flower Dedications

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Isaiah 43:8-13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-11; Psalm 119:9-16.

Tuesday: Psalm 89:1-29; 2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16; Romans 4:13-18; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a.

Wednesday: Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:34-50; Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23.

Thursday: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11.

Friday: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33:1-9; Philippians 2:12-18.

Saturday: Jeremiah 33:10-16; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 10:32-34, 46-52.

Palm Sunday – March 24:

**Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 31:9-16;
John 12:12-16.**

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.



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

