

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

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March 23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Prayer of Confession

We admit our sins

Our forty-day journey through Lent recalls Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Three times, the devil coaxed Jesus to rely on himself instead of on God. Three times, Jesus resisted, trusting God to give him all he needed.

Friends, we are not Jesus. We don't recognize relying on ourselves instead of God as a temptation; we even extol self-reliance as a virtue. Join me in confessing this to God, and asking for compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, I confess

that I struggle to confess.

I want to delight you by doing all the right things.

I don't want to admit that I can't.

To receive your forgiveness,

I must confront my failure.

God, I confess

that I struggle to confess:

**I'm afraid of being a burden to others.
I don't want to need them too much,
so I try not to need them at all.**

God, I confess
**that I struggle to confess:
just like I turn away from my own vulnerability
I turn away from the vulnerable.
I have rejected my weakness
and avoided those who are weak.
I have denied my frailty
and looked down on those who are frail.
I have resisted my dependence
and thought less of those who depend on others.**

God, forgive us,
**because we struggle to forgive ourselves.
We build a wall of self-reliance
that separates us from your love.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus once said,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician."
Jesus didn't come for those who didn't need him:
he came for me and for you
and for everyone who has fallen short.
Feel how Jesus' power is made perfect in our weakness.
In Christ's name, I tell you that you are completely and entirely forgiven.
You are imperfect,
and you are forgiven,
and you are entirely loved.

Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones
not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin,
but as the realization that God already has.
Let us shout with the psalmist:
**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!
Amen.**

Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW#733

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright,

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

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.

Kyrie



Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - c
Christ - have mer - cy, Christ - have mer - cy, Christ - have mer - c
Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - c

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God our strength, you shelter us when trouble draws near, and in the shadow of your wings we sing for joy. Help us whenever we are tested, so that we do not simply survive but thrive, bearing fruit for your holy reign. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

- 1 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- 3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
- 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
- 7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.
² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were
all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into
Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all
drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed
them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of
them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire
evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written,
“The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not

indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.



1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

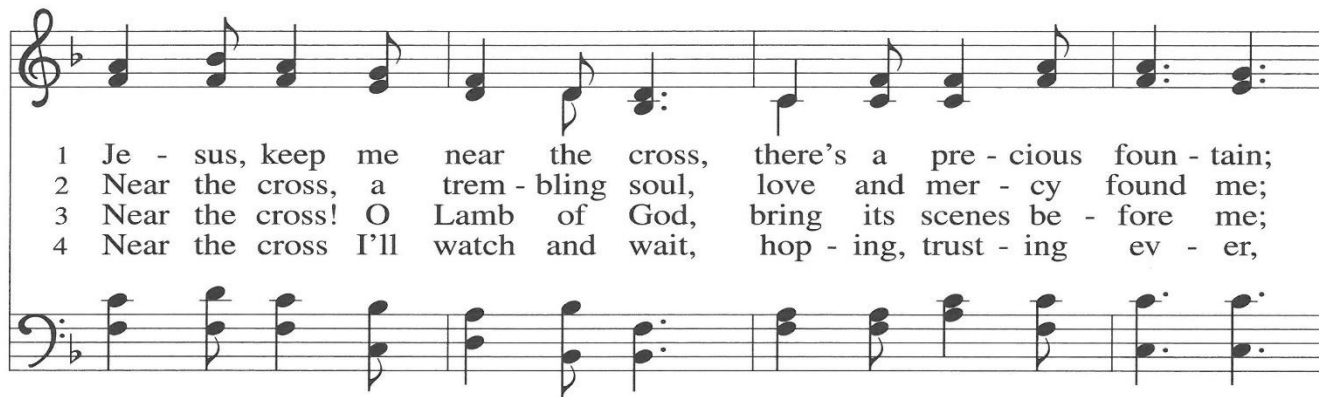
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW#335

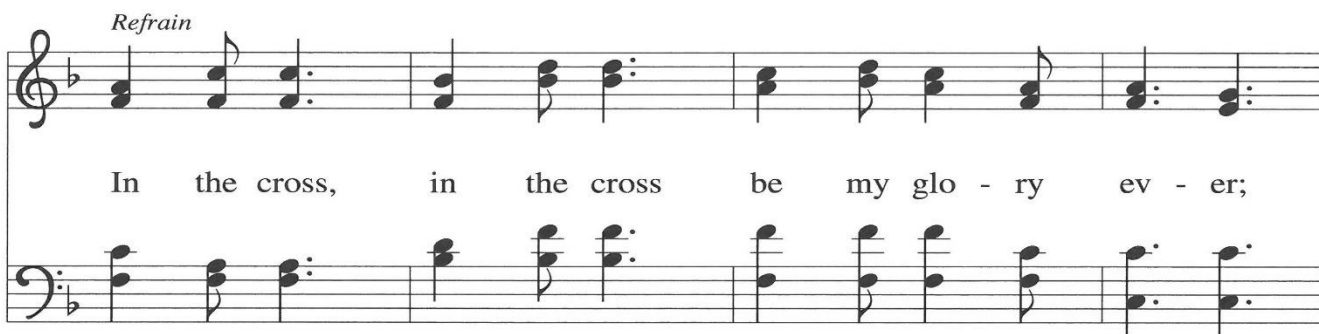


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 Prayer

As we prepare to make an offering, we pray:

God, you gave us what we needed to love you today.

Now we offer you a portion of these gifts, a harvest of the love you planted.

Offering

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

*This QR code links
to our PayPal account
and may be used to make
a one-time gift.*



Musical Offering

Please Stand

Offertory Canticle

Musical notation for the Offertory Canticle, consisting of three staves of music in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er har - vest from the seeds we've sown, that we may now be fed. Gath - er hopes, dreams, and prayers for the world you de - sire, and fill our tab - le with your pre - sence with the feast to come." The music is written on a single treble clef staff.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er har - vest from the
seeds we've sown, that we may now be fed. Gath - er hopes, dreams, and prayers for the
world you de - sire, and fill our tab - le with your pre - sence with the feast to come.

Prayer of Dedication

God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.

Now bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is not only right, but even needful for us to thank you, God,
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.

You open your hand to satisfy the needs of everything that you have made,
and all of creation sings its thankful praise.

And so we join the echoing song:

Sanctus



Ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might: Heav'n and Earth are full - of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san na - in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God,
brimming with your extravagant love.

In the beginning you created, not because you needed to
but because it delighted you:

**you made the textures of feathers and fur, the fragrance of pine and
saltwater, glinting minerals and sparkling stars, humankind in gorgeous
diversity.**

But we reached for more than what you freely gave.

**We sought to meet our own needs rather than to trust in your abundant
provision.**

Though you sent prophets to teach us compassion, calling us to share our bread
with the hungry and our means with the poor,

we learned to fear scarcity and to seek safety in self-interest.

Still, your faithfulness to us is inexhaustible.

You became like us in Jesus Christ,

whose life magnified the abundance of your grace and the lavishness of your love.

**He saw the richness of a widow's pennies
and the surpassing fineness of a lily's petals
and the towering greatness of a mustard seed
and fed thousands with five loaves and two fish.**

On the night of his arrest,
he gathered his friends for a simple meal and set a feast of love.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all 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.

And so we remember: **the command to love as he has loved.**
We remember: **the life of God poured out for us like wine.**
We remember: **the resurrection that shattered the power of death.**
We remember: **Christ's ascension into heaven and promise to come again.**

Extravagant God, pour out your Spirit on us
and on this bread and cup.
Let the fragrance of your love fill this house.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our noses with the sweetness of grapes
and the earthiness of wheat.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our hearts as lavish compassion
for the little, the lost, and the least.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let this bread and cup magnify your prodigal love,
mirroring the heavenly feast that has no end.
Bring us at last to the infinite table
where you have gathered all your holy ones
in the new creation where every tear is wiped away,
and every need has been met in you.
All honor and glory is yours, O God,
who is both Giver and Gift,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church,
now and forever. **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



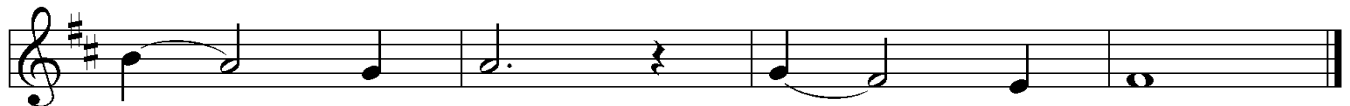
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 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

Let us pray.
O Jesus, you have fed us
with the bread that has no price,
the precious gift of your own self.
Now send us out like Mary with her perfume,
prepared to give the best we have
to dignify the world you so loved.
Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Blessing

Now may God,
who is our refuge and our safety,
who is our help and our stay,
who is our advocate and our defender,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. Amen.. **Amen.**

Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW#414



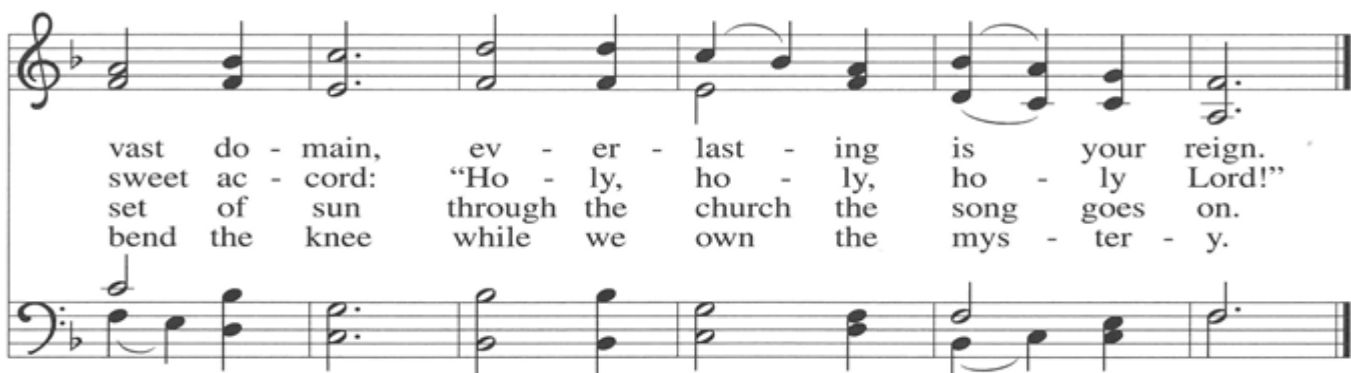
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scepter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Charge

Go in peace. Live in hope.

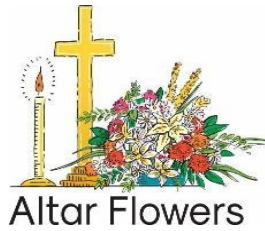
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Worship Service Today

Greeters/UshersTBD
Lector.....TBD
Worship Assistant..... Deacon LeeAnn McCarthy
Hospitality.....TBD
Altar Guild.....Jamie Polcari
Offering TellerDianne Carroll



Altar Flowers

**No
Altar Flowers
Donations**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Croton Blood Drive is Saturday March 29 from 10am-4pm at the Croton Library.

Join us in adorning our Easter Altar this year. Easter Flower Order Forms can be found on the narthex and link tables. You can take your flowers home following our Easter Service.

Monday: Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11; Psalm 39.

Tuesday: Psalm 45; Isaiah 7:10-14; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38.

Wednesday: Numbers 13:17-27; Psalm 39; Luke 13:18-21.

Thursday: Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5.

Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:6-15; Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24.

Saturday: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-10.

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 30, 2025:

**Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.**

Those With Special Needs & Concerns

Other Concerns of Our Community

PRAYER LIST

John Nurmi
 Arlita Hoyt
 Christine Olszanski
 Kolbe Olszanski
 Deanna Platt
 Bob Riekert
 Catherine Biel
 Jim Murtha
 Jim Befanis

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

LeeAnn McCarthy, Deacon

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

