

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Croton on Hudson – New York



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025

MORNINGSTAR

The lights are dimmed briefly. The presider greets and instructs the congregation.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is our Advent,
the time when we remember
God is urgently waiting
to finally arrive.

God, we have been waiting for you, too.
**Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

Right before you change a life,
your angels always say,
“Do not be afraid.”
**You are here to change this place.
We are not afraid.**

OPENING HYMN

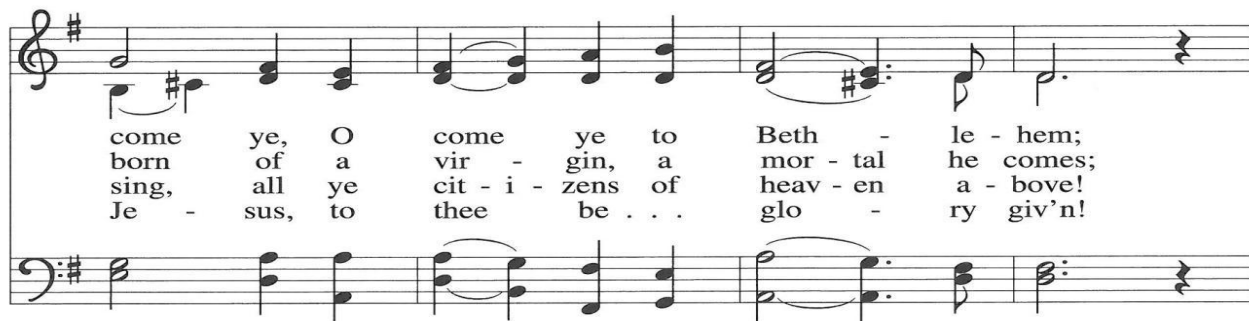
O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

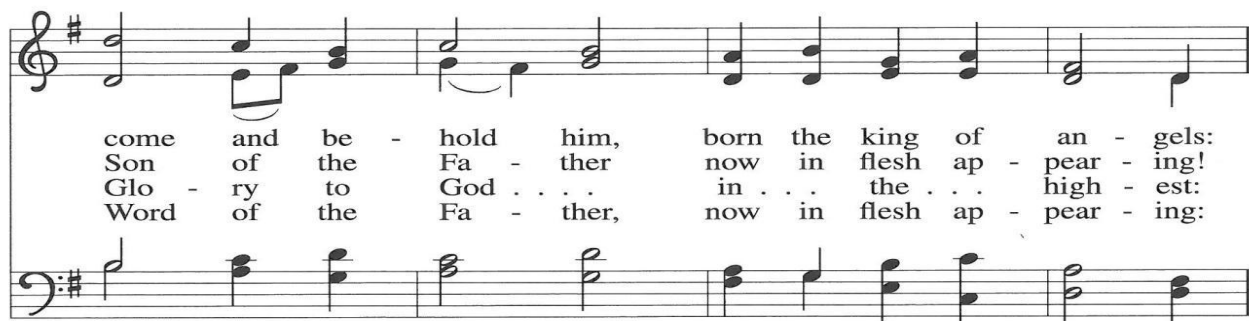
John Keil, Descant Trumpet



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;




come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

God, you have made this holy night to shine with the brightness of your Light. You have sent your Son Jesus to be our Redeemer and to guide our lives by the power of your Holy Spirit. We thank and praise you for this most wonderful gift; and we pray that by living in him we may know the joy and peace of his eternal presence, now and forever more.

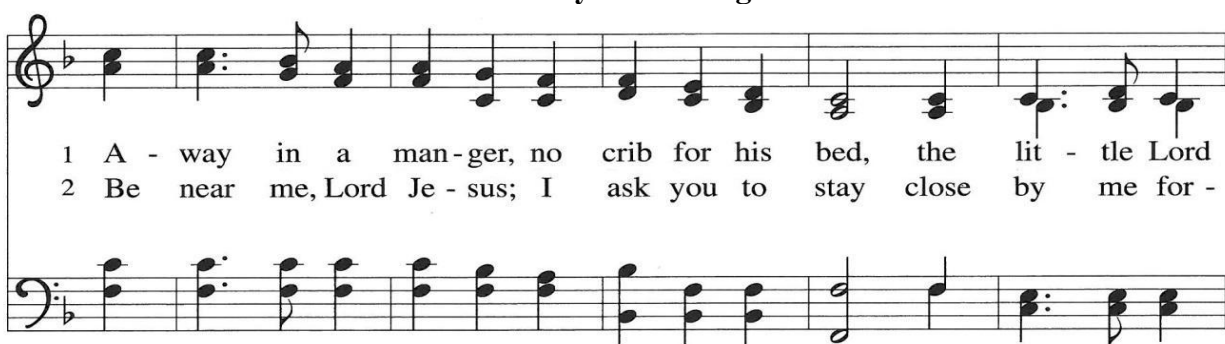
Lord, we ask you to bless and hallow this crib, which gives us a picture of your becoming human. May all who look on it learn of your humility and love, so that all may be filled with your heavenly peace. May our wills be made strong to glorify you with our deeds, so that we may shine as your lights in the world; through him who lives and reigns with you Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

Individuals process to the Crib to place their gifts while the congregation sings:

HYMN

Away in A Manger

ELW 277



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray ...

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

The Angels' Gloria

ELW 167

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14


¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.


⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

SERMON




1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!




peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

A BRIEF SILENCE

We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

Amen.

OFFERING

Offering Music

OFFERING PRAYER-

God, we cherished
what we thought
belonged only to us:
our money
and our time
and our families
and our freedom.
Yet in a moment,
we recognize
that every truly good thing
was a treasure
we had taken
from your open hand.
We thought such treasures were ours
to earn and to own.
You grow what we give away.
So we give you these gifts
as a sign of your love and faithfulness.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy Jesus, be our guest.
For you are already here.

God is with you.
And also with you.

People of God,
lift up your hearts in praise.
We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks
to the God of our salvation.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God,
once you made humankind
you could not help but love them.
From the first human mistake,
you planned the path to salvation.
Yet even when you set clear signs of promise

in sky or stars,
in the mouths of prophets
or the faces of a newborns,
people still felt astonished
to receive your goodness.

Jesus, at your birth your parents greeted you with wonder.
On the cross, your enemies crushed you,
then marveled as you exuded grace.
Again and again we tell the
age-old story of your grace.
Yet still we sing with wonder
when you appear out of the blue.

One night, long ago,
the enemies of Jesus
put an evil plan in motion.
In hours, they would imprison Jesus,
try him,
and unjustly put him to death.
Jesus' friends hardly expected
the sudden betrayal,
the quickness of injustice.
But God knew.
So Jesus set the table
for the long-awaited banquet
of God's grace.

That night,
the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and 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.

That night long ago
has come to us today.
At this table
we find the same bread,
Christ's body;
the same cup of Christ's blood.

So we say the same prayer
Jesus taught his friends...

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**

DISTRIBUTION

As you come forward, please take an individual glass, have it filled, and place it in the basin in the hallway. All are welcome at the communion table!

HYMN

In The Bleak Midwinter

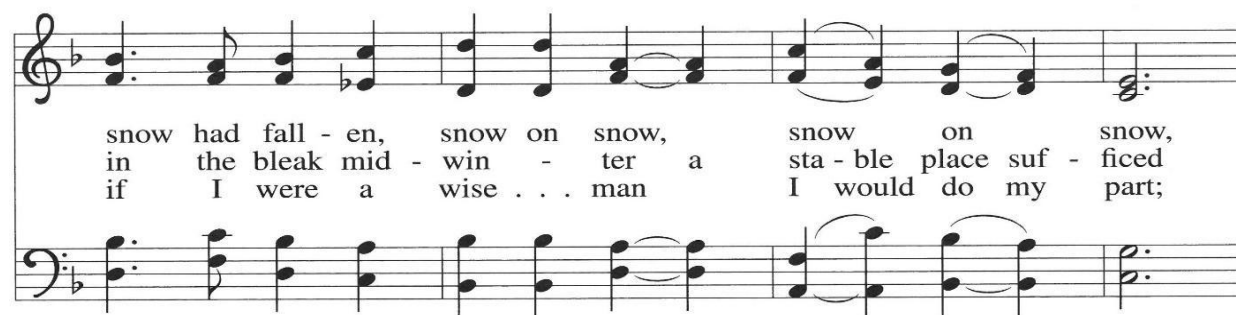
ELW 294




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

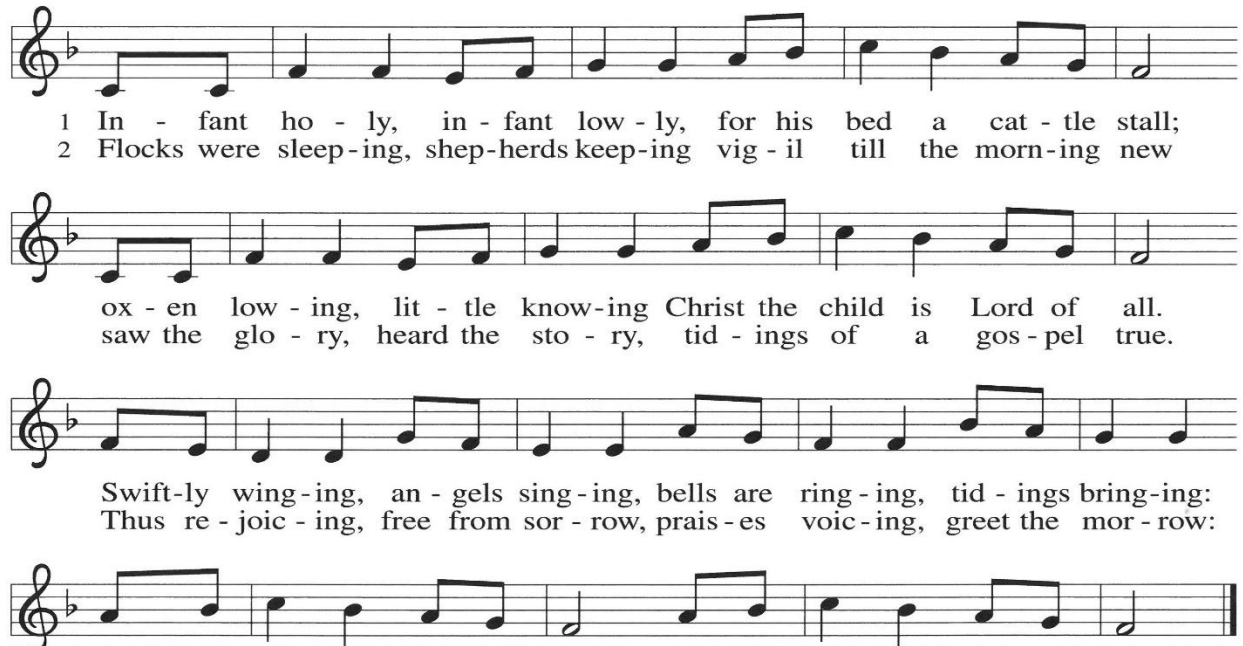


~ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276 (7 PM)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

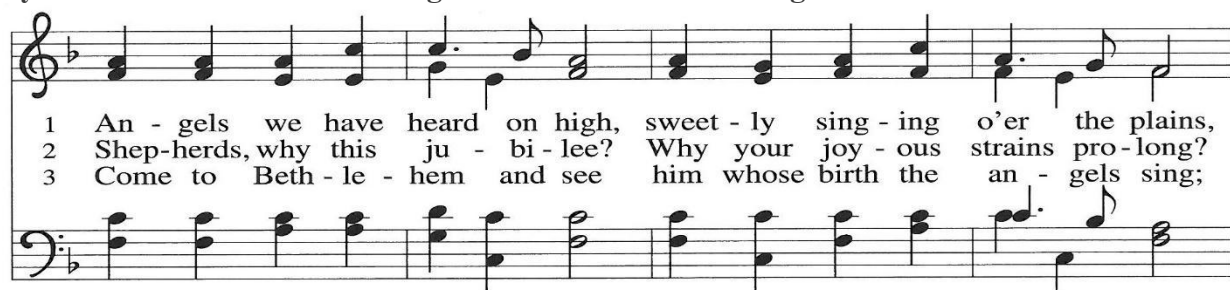
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

As you leave this place, remember:
whether you are ready for God's future
or panicking at the last minute,
God surrounds you.
Keep alert; trust God; seek peace. **Amen**



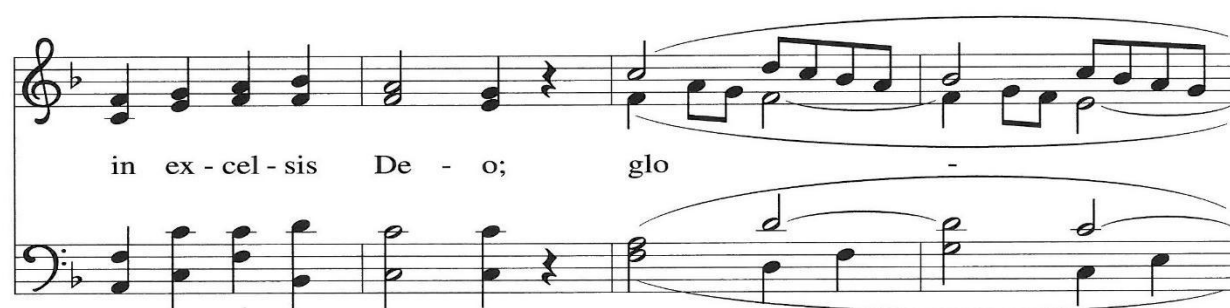
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

CANDLES AND SONG

The lights are dimmed as the candles are passed. If you have a lit candle, please hold it upright and the unlit candle will light from yours.

Pause as lights come down

HYMN

Silent Night

ELW 281

- Thomas Keil, flute



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Who are these angels who come to earth,
bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

Who are these shepherds who run to see,
and worship the babe on bended knee?

Who is this child, so small, so slight,
of whom the angels sang that night?

Who is this king, a manger his throne,
who humbles himself to make us his own?

This is God who sends a Son
into our midst, the promised one.

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.
Amen

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW267

John Keil, Descant Trumpet

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, and re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

2025 POINSETTAS DONATIONS

In Honor of:

Our Familyby Marilyn & George Dreyer

In Honor of:

Melanie Muellerby Lois Leonard

In Honor of:

Frya Barnesby Lois Leonard

In Honor of:

Maggie & Kenway Louie by Cora & Ronen Louie

In Memory of:

Jean FergusonJonathan & Phill

In Memory of:

Julia & Lauren Kingman.....Kingman Family



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
Lee Ann McCarthy, Deacon

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 Not Scheduled.

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

