



# Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton-on-Hudson New York 10520  
E-mail: [mail@oursaviourcroton.org](mailto:mail@oursaviourcroton.org) Telephone: (914) 271-4632

January 4, 2026

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## Second Sunday Of Christmas

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### 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, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW).

#### WE GATHER

#### Centering Music

#### Ring of *The Morningstar*

#### Prelude

#### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room**

for those seeking refuge;  
 our participation in violent systems  
 that harm your innocent ones;  
 our reluctance to embody your good news.  
 Be born in us today  
 and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
 Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
 ✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
 Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
 Amen.

## Opening Hymn- Love Has Come- ELW 292

### Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

## Gloria

The musical score for the Gloria section consists of two systems of vocal and piano staves. The first system shows a vocal line with the lyrics "Glo - ri - a" and a piano accompaniment. The second system shows a vocal line with the lyrics "in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo" and a piano accompaniment. The third system shows a vocal line with the lyrics "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!" and a piano accompaniment. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto range, and the piano accompaniment is in a lower range. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace, empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

7 Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm

## Psalm 147:12-20

- 12** Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
**13 who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
**14** God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
**15 God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
**16** God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
**17 God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
**18** The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
**19 God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
**20** The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

## Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Alleluia Verse

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? — You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia! —

## The Holy Gospel

**John 1:10-18**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Hymn- As With Gladness- ELW 302**

## As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## **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 to the dead.  
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**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of



tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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. Please stand as the gifts are brought forward.*

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



## Musical Offering

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



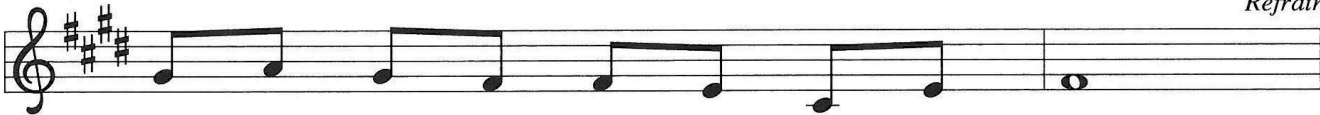
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



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.

*Please stand.*

## Prayer of Dedication

God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

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.**

### Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *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.

## **Words of Institution**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

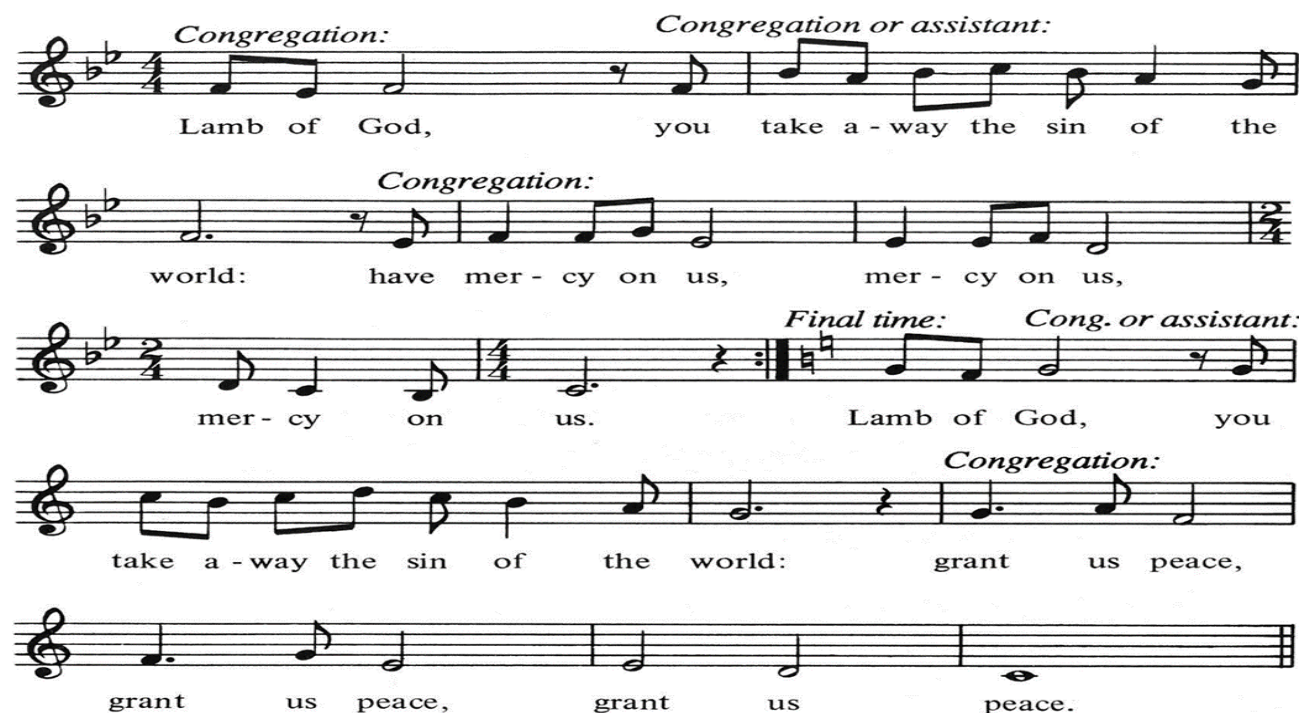
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, 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



The musical score for the Agnus Dei is written on five staves. The first staff is for the Congregation, starting in 4/4 time with the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The second staff continues the Congregation part with 'world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,'. The third staff features a 'Final time:' section in 2/4 time, with 'mer-cy on us.' followed by a 'Cong. or assistant:' section with 'Lamb of God, you'. The fourth staff continues the Congregation part with 'take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,'. The fifth staff concludes with 'grant us peace, grant us peace.'.

*Congregation:*  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

*Congregation:*  
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,

*Final time:* *Cong. or assistant:*  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

*Congregation:*  
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## The Distribution

*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.**

### **Prayer After Communion**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending**

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

### **Hymn- Arise Your Light Has Come- ELW 314**

## Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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### Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the world.

### Thank You to Those Serving Today

Greeters/Ushers  
Lector  
Hospitality  
Altar Guild  
Offering Teller

TBD  
John Magerlein  
Lee Ann McCarthy  
Karen Magerlein  
Larry Moy



No altar flower  
donation this  
morning

### Announcements

Joint Epiphany Service will be January 6th at Grace in Yorktown, NY

Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9 am-noon and the first Saturday of the month from 1-4 pm. However, they are taking a well-deserved holiday break until the new year and will resume on January 7.

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### Weekly Devotional Readings and Next Sunday's Readings

**Monday:** Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2

**Tuesday:** Epiphany of Our Lord

**Wednesday:** Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21

**Thursday:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9

**Friday:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a;

**Saturday:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31;

### Baptism of Our Lord- January 11:

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

### Prayer List

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

### Serving in Armed Forces

Michael Gabrielsen  
Jack O'Brien

### Other Concerns of Our Community

Bishop Katrina Foster and her 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

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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 a 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.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## ***Welcome to Our Saviour Lutheran Church***

Rev. Dr. Justin Johnson, Pastor  
Phill Greenland, Music Director  
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 & Fri: Pastor's days off

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

<http://www.oursaviourcroton.org>

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