

Christmas Eve 2023



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

About Us

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been firmly planted in the Phillips Community since 1912. A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, we celebrate our diversity of age, race, gender identities, sexual orientations, culture and citizenship.

Welcome, Visitors!

Welcome to all visitors and guests. If you live here, we hope you'll consider joining. If you are here for a short time, we hope you'll feel at home. Please pick up a copy of our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, from the entry table.

Need hearing assistance or larger print? Please ask an usher.

Children are welcome to participate fully in worship. We feel strongly that children's spirituality develops through experience. In our community, children lead as ushers, musicians, readers and communion servers. We offer kid's worship folders. We expect that children will behave as children – giggles, wiggles, and all. Kids (and their parents) sometimes need a break. In our reading corner in the Hospitality Center, we offer books, a few toys and more. Kids and parents are invited to go in and out of the sanctuary as needed.

Safe Church. For the safety of all our children, we ask that children be attended at all times. Please accompany your child to the bathroom and reading corner. Copies of our Safe Church Policy are available from the church office.

Transportation and Parking

Parking. Handicap access is available in the small lot at the back of the church, accessed from the alley. Sunday morning, we may use the Hope Academy lot (across Chicago Ave). Please note street parking is limited to residents only during certain hours.

Buses. The D line runs every 10 minutes and stops right at 24th. The 5 bus line still does run on Chicago Ave, but it is about every hour, and does stop at the new bus shelters, along with other intersections. For more options, please check our website: oursavioursmpls.org, call Metro Transit at 612-373-3333 or visit metrotransit.org.

Christmas Eve

Deep within the night, we welcome the Christ child. Isaiah declares the coming of this Prince of Peace. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with holy wonder we go into the world to share this Good News.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

Christmas Proclamation

*Opening Carol ***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled,”
Joyful, all you nations rise, join the anthem of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav'nly reign of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all now bring, ris'n with healing in your wings.
Now we find the kin-dom come, death and war and hate are done.
Love has come to all the earth, Love has brought a second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing: songs of joy to us they bring.

*Greeting

The grace and truth of the Word made flesh,
the cosmic love of the Creator,
and the healing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

- Quiet reflection -

Lesson (9pm)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in deepest night have seen a brilliant dawn;
those who lived in a land of deep shadows — on them dawn has broken.

For a child is born to us, an heir given to us;
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Protector, Prince of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.

The zeal of YAHWEH Omnipotent will do this!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (9pm)

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung,
 it came, a flow'r so bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night

Lesson *The Risk of Birth, Christmas, 1973* Madeleine L'Engle

This is no time for a child to be born,
with the earth betrayed by war & hate
and a comet slashing the sky to warn
that time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
in a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
honor & truth were trampled by scorn –
yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on planet earth,
and by a comet the sky is torn –
yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

Carol

“Love Has Come”

#292

Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration and was taken
while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
All went to their own towns to be registered.
Joseph 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.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And 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.

Carol

“Jesus Comes”



1. In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2. For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3. In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
Ra - dian't star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, Like the whis - per of the
home - less in - fant born, For the meek and those who
heat or win - ter's chill, With a warm and lov - ing



wind, Na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
mourn, For a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.
will, To a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle Tune: TENTH NIGHT; Sally Ann Morris. © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Spark Bible pages 212-217

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God 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. 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 God favors!”

Lesson *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem (excerpt) Maya Angelou*

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
and singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
come the way of friendship.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth’s tribes loosen their voice
to celebrate the promise of Peace.

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

#289



Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Good News.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon (4pm)

Reflection

*Prayers of the People

On this Christmas Eve we pray for peace in our world, for healing in our own bodies or in the bodies of those we love. We pray for our enemies, for all who find themselves most vulnerable and for those who are grieving. When you are able, you are invited to come forward to the sand containers, light a candle and pray. Gathered in Christ together, our light will grow. God is in the midst of our pain and suffering.

Carol

“Down Along Chicago Avenue”

Bret Hesla



1. Je - sus was born to an un - wed moth - er.
2. Deep in her coat Ma - ry held her ba - by.
3. Hope for the world, cud - dled by the home - less.
4. Far, far a - way Far - mers gaz - ing sky - ward



Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! The out - look was - n't bright. But
Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! She found the shel - ter door. A
Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! But man - y heads were turned And
Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! be - held the north - ern lights. But



how the an - gels sang that night Down a - long Chi - ca - go Av - e - nue.
wo - man smiled and wel - comed her Down a - long Chi - ca - go Av - e - nue.
missed the dream of peace that burned Down a - long Chi - ca - go Av - e - nue.
none could see that heav'n - ly sight Down a - long Chi - ca - go Av - e - nue

5. Wake, Mary, wake to the winter morning
Glory, Glory, what glory!
Quick grab a bit to eat, at seven you're back on the street
down along Chicago Avenue.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people greet each other: “Peace be with you.”)

Gathering our Gifts

All present, even those who contribute through automatic payments, are invited to lay hands upon the collection plate symbolizing their contributions. Those worshipping online may contribute on our website: <http://oursavioursmples.org>.

*Offertory

“What Feast of Love”

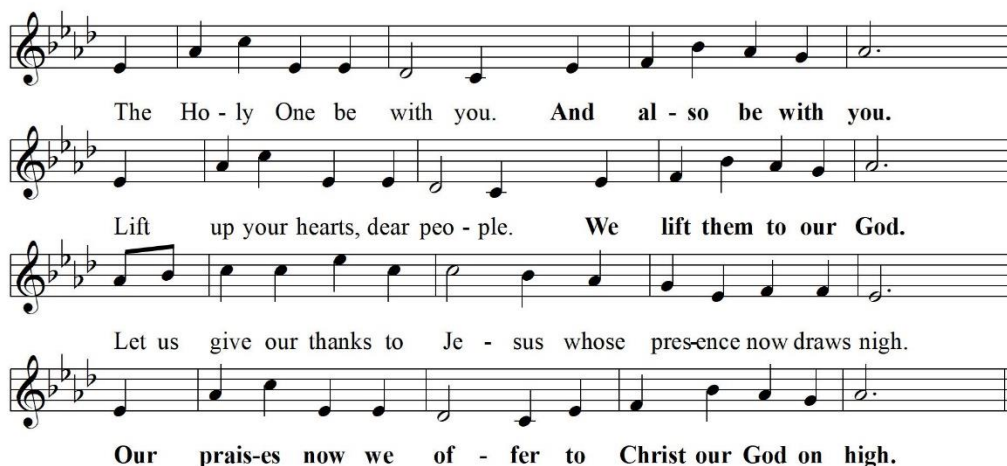
#487

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wonderous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

*The Great Thanksgiving

Sung responsively to the tune: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”



The Ho - ly One be with you. And al - so be with you.

Lift up your hearts, dear peo - ple. We lift them to our God.

Let us give our thanks to Je - sus whose pres-ence now draws nigh.

Our prais-es now we of - fer to Christ our God on high.

It is our joy to offer our praise to Christ our God.
With hopeful expectation we lift our voice in song.
Like watchers on the mountain we shout with joy and cheer.
We join the angel chorus for Christ has entered here!

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Our Savior has drawn near.
Rejoice, rejoice, believers, with alleluias clear!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O God, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

***Eucharistic Proclamation and Prayer**

***Lord's Prayer**

Joining with the people of God throughout the ages, let us pray with confidence.

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

**As part of our unfolding commitment to using inclusive and expansive language for God, this Advent we are choosing to modify the word 'kingdom' which connotes both maleness and a form of government unfamiliar to most of us. Instead, we will use 'kin-dom' which captures the way Jesus radically redefines family and invites everyone into loving relationship with God and neighbor.*

Invitation to Communion

Distribution

All are welcome at Christ's table. We will serve from the front of each section. Ushers will guide you. After you have received bread, or a gluten free wafer, hold out your glass to the server and indicate whether you would like wine (the dark liquid), or grape juice (the light liquid in the second pitcher which has a shiny band attached to it). You are invited to eat and drink and then deposit your compostable cup with a server. Those who do not commune may indicate a preference for a blessing.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” #294

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” #271

“Deep Within the Night”



1. Stars in spin, all but one Deep with - in__ the night.
2. In - fant born, cries of hope Deep with - in__ the night.
3. Breaths of steam ris - ing up Deep with - in__ the night.
4. Frag - ile life comes once more Deep with - in__ the night.



- Still - ness dwells in all things Deep with - in__ the night._____
- Won - der prays heav'n to earth Deep with - in__ the night._____
- Grate - ful tears stream - ing down Deep with - in__ the night._____
- Milk - y Way shines A - men. Deep with - in__ the night._____

5. Wings of awe carry me – deep within the night.
To the place God is born – deep within the night.

***Blessing**

***Post Communion Canticle**

God came down that we may have love! Peace! Joy!

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Lesson**

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all,
to make music in the heart.

***Sending Song**

“Silent Night”

#281

You may raise your candle as we sing.

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother & child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest! Go in peace, bring good news!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Portions of the liturgy and clip art are taken from *Sundays and Seasons.com* © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under license # 45191. All hymns from ELW or *All Creation Sings*. *Jesus Comes* Text by Mary Louise Bringle, tune by Sally Ann Morris © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. *Down Along Chicago Avenue* 2012 Bret Hesla, bret.hesla@gmail.com *Deep Within the Night* © 2020 Bret Hesla. Used by permission under OneLicense.net # A-704050. Cover art by Lane Connors. This page art by Janet McKenzie.

Tonight's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Preaching:	Esther Sianipar
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Prayers:	Ralph Baumgartner
Readers:	Ziggy Smith, Kristie Hennig
Accompanist:	Catherine Preus (4pm), Tom Witt (9pm)
Cantors:	Kathleen Olsen, Mary Preus
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson

Information about Our Saviour's can be found on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

**If you're interested in becoming a member of
Our Saviour's, please reach out to Pastor Martha.
We call this process: Living Questions**

Mission of the month is Helping Hand Fund.

**Sunday, Dec. 31 10:30am Worship
Lessons and Carols with Communion**



OUR SAVIOUR'S Lutheran Church

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent –
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

612-871-2967 Office Hours: M-Th, 9-3
2315 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55404
www.oursavioursmpls.org
www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls

Pastor	Martha Schwehn Bardwell martha@oursavioursmpls.org	612-871- 2967 opt 3
Pastor	Esther Sianipar esther@oursavioursmpls.org	612-871- 2967 opt 4
Music Director	Mary Preus marypreus@oursavioursmpls.org	612-871- 2967 opt 6
Office Manager	Marcin Cienski marcin@oursavioursmpls.org	612-871- 2967 opt 7
Front Desk & Office Volunteers	Jeanne Asp; Nancy Nygaard Johnson (Monday)	612-871- 2967
OSCS Executive Director	Mike Huffman mike@oscs- mn.org	612-871- 5900 opt 1