

# Visions of the Reign of God

Third Sunday in Advent  
December 14th, 2025

# 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 expect that children will behave as children – giggles, wiggles, and all. We offer a playground in the Sanctuary with books and coloring supplies for kids to use during the service. There are bags that can be brought to your seats with supplies. We also have a reading corner in the Hospitality Center with books and toys. Kids and their parents are invited to go in and out of the Sanctuary as needed.

**Safe Church.** For the safety of all 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** - Parking is available in the parking lot off the alley behind church, on the local streets (follow signs as some parking is only residential or has hour restrictions) and at the Hope Academy Parking ramp at 24th St and Park Ave. The arms are up on Sunday mornings until 2pm. Parking there other days requires a code. Pick up a card at church with the ramp code. There are handicap parking spots available in the front and back of the church.

**Bus** - The D line runs every 10 minutes on Chicago Ave. For more options, visit [metrotransit.org](http://metrotransit.org).

## Mission of the month: Helping Hand Fund

This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors for folks who come to our doors – whether members or neighbors - with financial needs. We have helped several people with things like rent assistance, bus rides, releasing a car from an impound lot, utilities and medical bills, transportation for family emergencies, and income assistance from loss of work. We are not a social service agency, but sometimes people fall through the cracks of our systems, and we are a compassionate place to turn. When we give, the gift of money is accompanied by a listening, compassionate ear; prayer, and invitation to Christian community (as appropriate). Thank you in advance for your generosity and for the mercy and compassion that flows from our God to those in need

**Online giving** - If you are interested in giving online to Our Saviour's for the Mission of the Month or general offering, use this QR Code:



# Third Sunday in Advent

*This Advent season, our theme is 'Visions of the Reign of God'. We will use different images and words for the reign of God, including "Kingdom," Kin-dom, "realm" and "reign." These words capture different aspects of God's promised Day of justice, peace and joy for all. We invite you to live into these images as a way of opening our minds and hearts to expanded visions of the reign of God.*

## Gathering

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

**Welcome**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*The community is invited to remain seated as we begin worship in reflection and prayer.*

Holy One, your day of justice, peace and joy  
For all people seems so very far away.  
Yet your prophets cry out across the centuries,  
Sharing visions of beloved community, right relationship, and shalom -  
Promising us that you are near.

**Open the gates of your kingdom in us.**

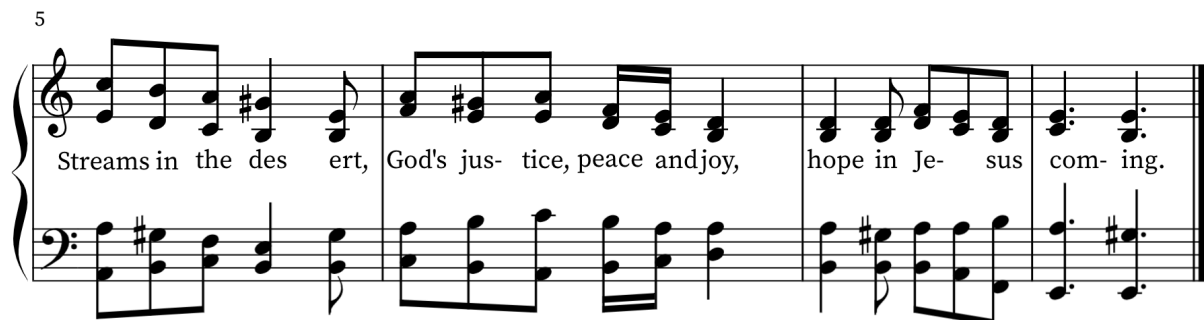
**Open our minds to dream**

**Our hearts to hope**

**And our hands to share.**

**Ready us for your coming.**

**Amen.**



*Candlelighters share their vision of the Reign of God.*



\*Gathering Hymn

*We are Dreaming of a World*

1. We are dream - ing of a world of e - qual - i - ty; we are  
2. We are work - ing for a world where all chil - dren thrive, where they  
3. We are call - ing for a world that is safe and fair, where we  
4. We are sing - ing of a world filled with love for all, where we

dream - ing of a world filled with peace. Now the Spir - it gives us vi - sions of  
grow up to be all they can be; we are join - ing all to - geth - er to  
all can have the free - dom of choice. We are ris - ing up to - geth - er as  
o - pen doors and wel - come each one. Now the Spir - it gives us pow - er to

what can be; joined with Her our jus - tice work will in - crease.  
march for lives. "Stop the vio - lence," we cry out ur - gent - ly.  
we de - clare, "Time's Up! Give us e - qual rights, e - qual voice."  
take down walls; we will la - bor so Her kin - dom\* will come.

Dreams be - come re - al - i - ty, as we work so that



### \*Greeting

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion 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.*

### First Reading

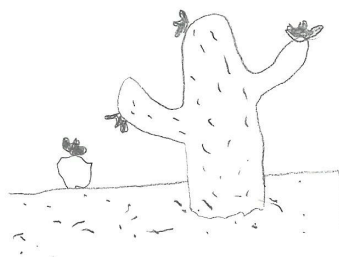
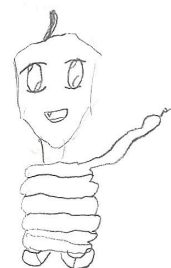
**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus

<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of God,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!



Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
God will come and save you.”

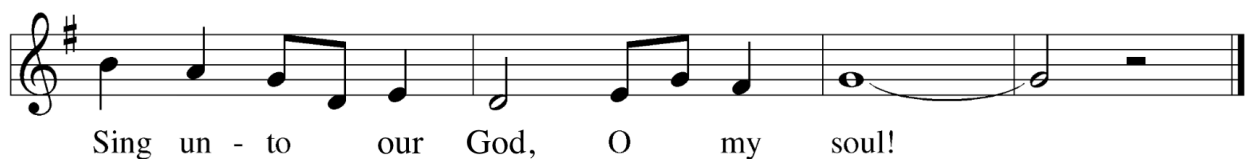
- <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of God shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 146:5-10 *All – Refrain; Reader - Verses***

*Cantor will sing the refrain the first time through, then the congregation is invited to join.*



## \*Gospel Acclamation



## \*Gospel

**Matthew 11:2-11**(Spark Bible p.234)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O God.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> those who are blind receive their sight, those who are lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the dominion of heaven is greater than he.”

This is the Good News. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Sermon

*After the children's sermon, young children may go with the nursery minister for children's church and be welcomed back during the sharing of the peace. They are also most welcome to stay in the sanctuary.*

## Sermon

*A space for sermon notes can be found in the back of this worship bulletin.*

**\*Hymn of the Day** *There Is A Longing In Our Hearts*

**ACS 1078**

*Refrain — All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:  
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:  
3 For heal - ing, for whole-ness, for new life:  
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:  
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:  
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:  
deep-est night. We call you; we wait:

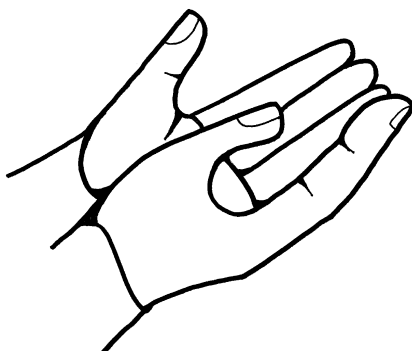


*Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

**\*Prayers of the People**

*Each petition ends: God of grace...hear our prayer.*





# Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## \*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Greet your neighbor with a sign of peace by saying: "Peace be with you."*

## Gathering our Gifts

### *OSLC Youth Choir*

*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: [oursavioursmpls.org](http://oursavioursmpls.org).*

## \*Offertory Response

These gifts that we have, the world didn't give them to us (3x)

The world didn't give them, the world can't take them away

This **joy** that we have, the world didn't give it to us (3x)

The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away

## \*Offertory Prayer

## \*The Great Thanksgiving



P: God be with you.

C: And al-so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to our God.



P: Let us give thanks to our tri - une God C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en, heav - en, heav - en and

earth are full are full of your glo - ry.

Ho-san-na in the high - est, Ho-san-na in the high - est,

ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed,

bless - ed, bless - ed is the one who

comes in the name of our God Ho-san-na in the high -

- est, ho-san-na in the high - est,

ho-san-na in the high - est.

## **\*Eucharistic Prayer**

*As part of the eucharistic prayer we confess the great mystery of faith to the tune of the Civil Rights Movement anthem, "We Shall Overcome." We learned this from Trinity Lutheran in Manhattan:*

**Jesus Christ has died, Jesus Christ is risen,  
Jesus Christ will come again.  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe  
Jesus Christ will come again.**

## **\*The Prayer of Jesus**

**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.**

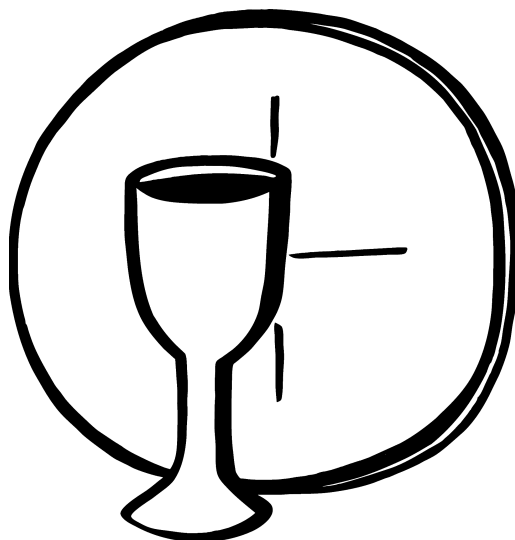
*\*As part of our commitment to using inclusive and expansive language for God, this season we are modifying the word 'kingdom' which connotes both maleness and a form of government unfamiliar to most of us. Instead, we will use 'kin-dom' which captures the way Jesus radically redefines family and invites everyone into a loving relationship with God and neighbor. Whether saying 'kin-dom' or 'kingdom,' we proclaim the subversive reign of God's love and justice.*

## **Healing Prayer at the Font**

*During communion distribution, you are invited to the font for individual prayers.*

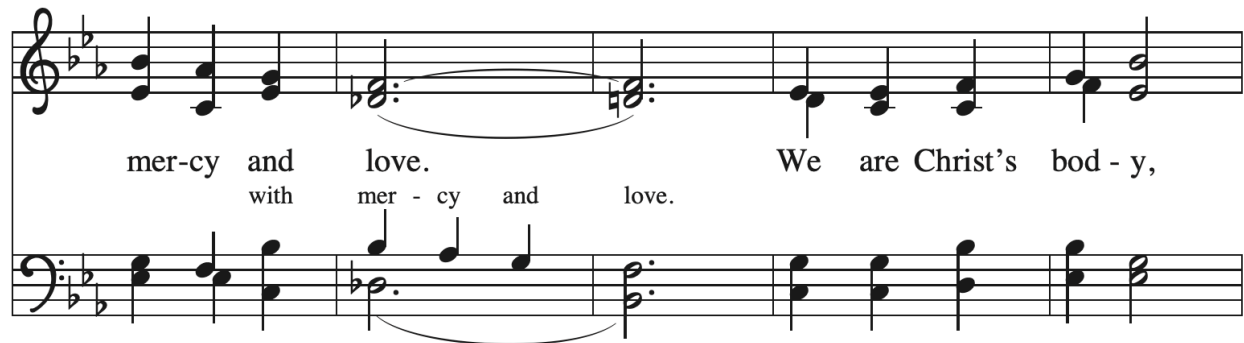
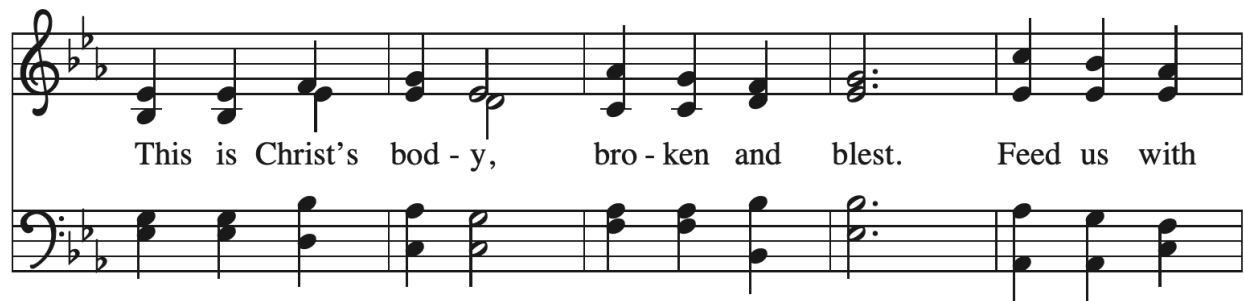
## **Distribution**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will guide you. After receiving bread or a gluten-free wafer, hold out your glass for wine (dark) or juice (light). Following communion, deposit your compostable cup with a server. Those who do not commune may indicate a preference for a blessing.*



*This Is Christ's Body*

*ACS #967*



*People, Look East*

*ELW 248*

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

*ELW 242*

\*Blessing





# Sending

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

## God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.

## \*Benediction

*This is a benediction song that we learned at Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer.*

As you go on your way may Christ go with you  
May Christ go before you to show you the way  
May Christ go behind you to encourage you  
Beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over  
Within you to give you peace

## \*Dismissal

*This is a benediction song that we learned at Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer.*

Alleluia! Go in peace. Love and serve God! **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

*All are invited to the Hospitality Center for announcements and community time.*



## Acknowledgments

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# Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn-Bardwell & Esther Sianipar
Preaching:	Babette Chatman
Reader:	Elizabeth Hanson
Prayers:	Kim Guessford
Special Music:	OSLC Youth Choir
Musicians:	Alyssa Schwitzer & Kent Goodroad
Sound:	Mike Libby
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson
Communion Recruiters:	5th & 6th graders
Window Blinds:	Remi Hanson
Cover Art:	Kent Goodroad's Front Yard
Artwork:	Rachel Goodell, Ott Abrahamson, Roy Comstock

## This week at OSLC:

**Wednesday, December 17**

NO DABS

10:15AM Bible Study (HC/Zoom)

5:30PM Advent Meal

6PM Advent Liturgy

6:30PM Choir

**Friday, December 19**

6:30PM Las Posadas at San Pablo/St. Paul's

**Sunday, December 21**

**Adult Forum 9AM** – Reflecting on Las Posadas Together



# 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](http://www.oursavioursmpls.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls](https://www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls)

## Our Saviour's Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Martha Schwehn Bardwell</b> <a href="mailto:martha@oursavioursmpls.org">martha@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 3
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Esther K. Sianipar</b> <a href="mailto:esther@oursavioursmpls.org">esther@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 2
<b>Music Directors</b>	<b>Kent Goodroad</b> <a href="mailto:kent@oursavioursmpls.org">kent@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 4
	<b>Alyssa Schwitzer</b> <a href="mailto:alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org">alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 4
<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Marcin Cienski</b> <a href="mailto:marcin@oursavioursmpls.org">marcin@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 5
<b>Front Desk &amp; Office Volunteers</b>	<b>Jeanne Asp</b> (Monday)	(612) 871-2967
	<b>Nancy Nygaard Johnson</b> (Monday)	
	<b>Sheryll Mennicke</b> (Tuesday)	
<b>OSCS Executive Director</b>	<b>Mike Huffman</b> <a href="mailto:mike@oscs-mn.org">mike@oscs-mn.org</a>	(612) 871-5900 opt 1