

Lessons and Carols



First Sunday of Christmas
December 28th, 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.

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:



First Sunday of Christmas

In this season of Christmas we celebrate the incarnation. God makes a home with us in ordinary and unexpected ways that grow abundant life, and bring joy and justice out of despair and inequity. All creation sings the praises of the newborn Christ— and we sing, too, in broken and healing tones: Glory be to the Holy One!

Gathering

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

Gathering Carols

Joy to the World

#267

Angels We have Heard on High

#289

Welcome

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night the new born Savior shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

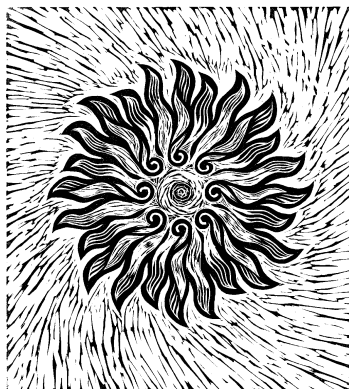
*Greeting

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



Lessons and Carols

God speaks to us with word and song

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 (Spark Bible page 2)

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Carol

‘Twas In the Moon of Wintertime

#284

Second Reading

Micah 5:2-5a (Spark Bible page 194)

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of God,
in the majesty of the name of his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight rulers.

Third Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38 (Spark Bible page 196)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his renown there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

Annunciation & The Magnificat

All:

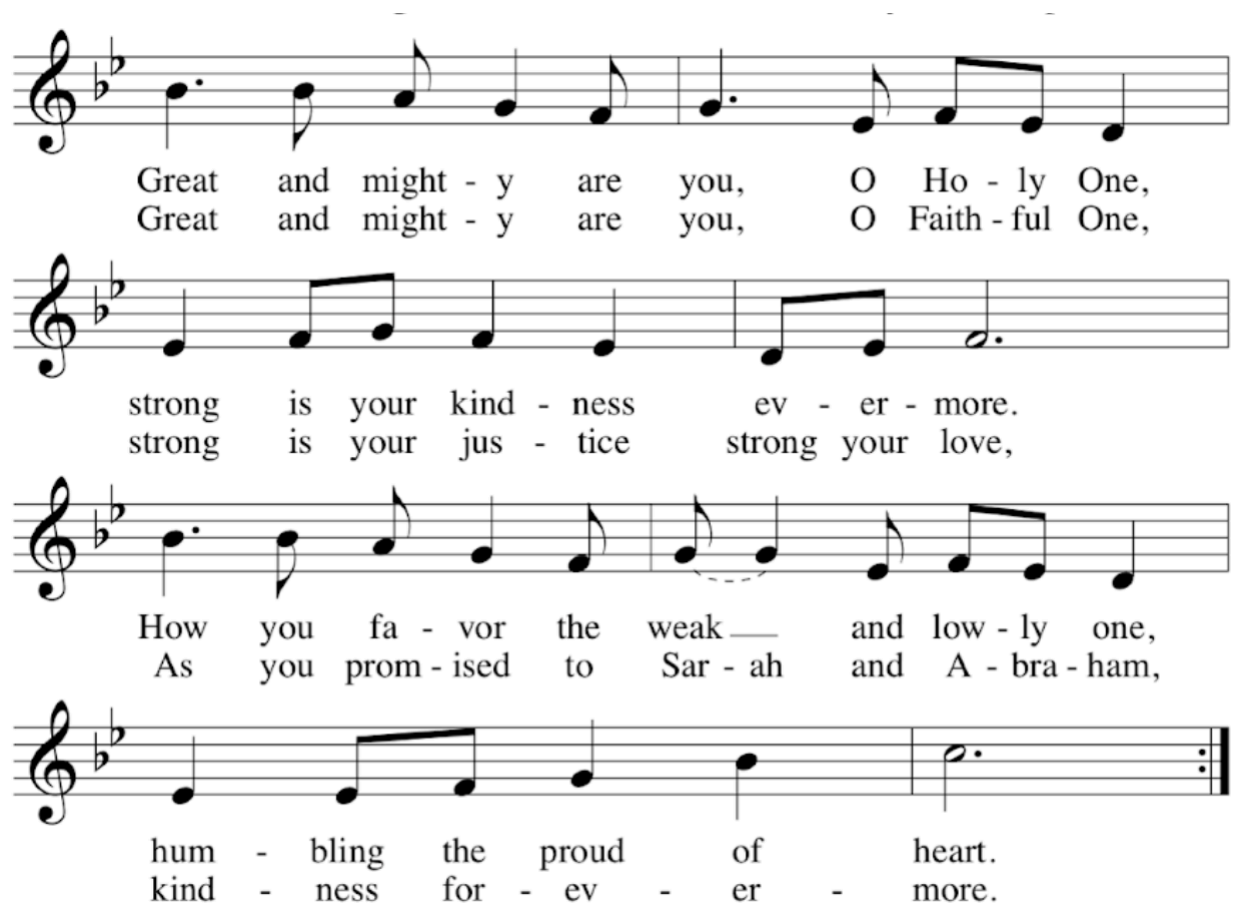
1., 3. My ——— soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

fine last time



Fourth Reading

John 1: 1-14 (Spark Bible page 234)

¹In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

²The Word was in the beginning with God.

³All things came into being through them,
and without them not one thing came into being.
What has come into being ⁴in the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰The Word was in the world,
and the world came into being through them;
yet the world did not know them.

¹¹The Word came to their own,
and the Word's own people did not accept them.

¹²But to all who received them, who believed in their name,
The Word gave power to become children of God,

¹³who were born—not from blood
nor from the design of flesh
nor from human design—but from God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen their glory,
the glory as of a parent's only child,
full of grace and truth.

Carol

Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS #914



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Fifth Reading

Matthew 2:13-18 (Spark Bible page 224)

¹³ Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Reflection

Hymn of the day

In the Bleak Midwinter

#294

***Prayers of the People**

***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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#286

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: oursavioursmples.org.

***Offertory**

*To the melody of **The First Noel***

As we bring gifts, like ancient kings,
our acts of peace are offerings.
So, as we honor Jesus’ birth,
we pledge to care for all the earth.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the Promise of Israel.

***Offertory Prayer**

***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.*

Sending

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

***Sending Song**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

#290

***Blessing**

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

Portions of the liturgy and clip art are taken from *Sundays and Seasons.com* © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under license # 45191. All hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or *All Creation Sings* (ACS). *Bread of Heaven* © 2019 Bret Hesla, bret.hesla@gmail.com. Used by permission under OneLicense.net # A-704050.

“Joy to the World” Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958.

“‘Twas In the Moon of Wintertime” Text: Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt. Music: French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

“Once in Royal David’s City” Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876.

“The Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer” Music: Marty Haugen. Copyright © 1990, 2016 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved .

“Jesus, the Light of the World” Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain. Music: Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol. Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“The First Noel” Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

“We Shall Overcome” Text: Traditional. Music: African American spiritual. Used with permission.

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual.

“God Welcomes All” Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949. Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc., and arr. John L. Bell. Text and transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

“As You Go On Your Way” Music © 1983, John Ylvisaker. All rights reserved. Used by permission.; Arr. © 2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Information about Our Saviour’s can be found on our website (www.oursavioursmpls.org) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/OurSavioursMPLS).

Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn-Bardwell
Preaching:	Martha Schwehn-Bardwell
Reader:	Amy Blumenshine
Prayers:	Mike Troutman
Musicians:	Catherine Preus, Members of the OSLC Adult Choir
Sound:	Mike Libby
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson
Communion Recruiters:	5th & 6th graders
Window Blinds:	Remi Hanson

This week at OSLC:

Wednesday, December 31

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, January 4

9AM Intergenerational Forum for January 4 - Intergenerational Epiphany Party
No Sunday school, Godly Play or Nursery from 9-10



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

Our Saviour's Staff

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