

# Visions of the Reign of God

Second Sunday in Advent  
December 7th, 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:



# Second 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 it 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.**

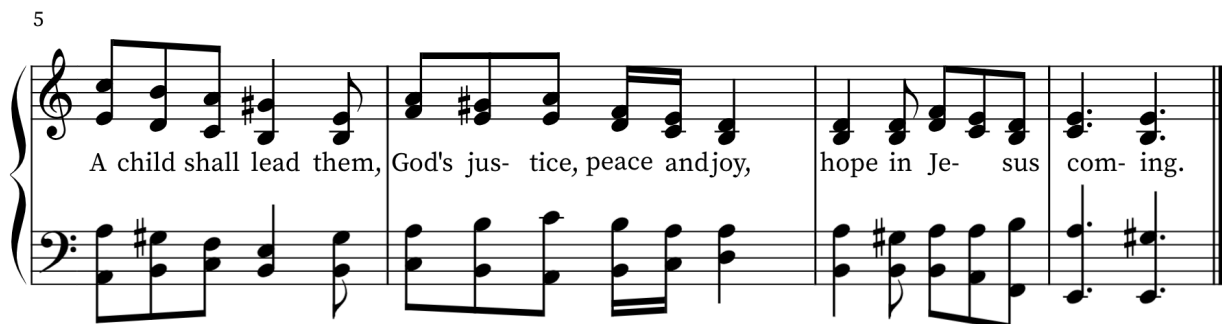
**Open our minds to dream**

**Our hearts to hope**

**And our hands to share.**

**Ready us for your coming.**

**Amen.**



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



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

\*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 11:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of its roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of our God shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of God.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of God.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;





<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse, of  
whom the nations shall inquire, and whose dwelling shall be glorious.



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

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19** *All – Refrain; Reader - Verses*

Cantor:



May God's jus - tice flour-ish like show-ers that wat - er the earth.

All:



May God's jus - tice flour-ish like show-ers that wat - er the earth.

## \*Gospel Acclamation



## \*Gospel

**Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O God.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Holy One,  
make straight the paths of the Holy One.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

# Children's Sermon and Welcoming New Members

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. Today, we also welcome new members to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

## Sermon

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

### \*Hymn of the Day *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus* ASC 904

*Español:* 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y  
2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -

*English:* 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the

li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,  
nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra  
set your peo - ple free. From op -  
road of ser - vant - hood; give new

na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -  
que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -  
pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -  
life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to

der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -  
tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu  
ty. Come, re - release from ev - 'ry pris - on those who  
good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your

ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros  
rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran  
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man

pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.  
mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.  
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.



## \*Prayers of the People

# Meal

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

## \*Peace

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

## Gathering our Gifts

***Breck School's Advanced Concert Chorale***

*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).*

"Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive" - *Avery Teeter '26, soloist*

"Comfort Ye, My People" - *William Gaillard '26, soloist*

"And the Glory of the Lord" - *Advanced Concert Chorale*

## \*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 **peace** 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.**

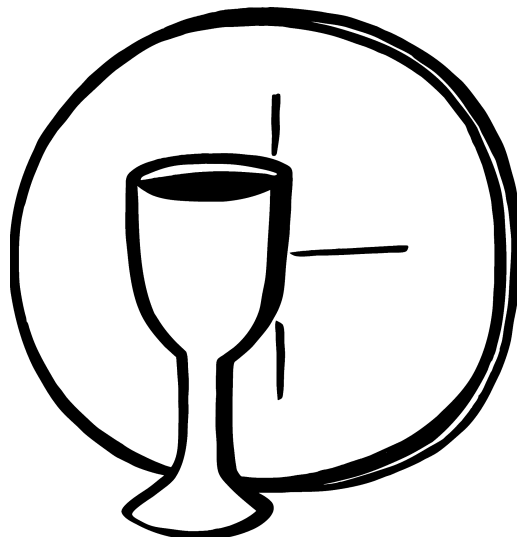
*\*As part of our commitment to using inclusive and expansive language for God, this season we are modifying the word 'kingdom' which connotes both maleness and a form of government unfamiliar to most of us. Instead, we will use 'kin-dom' which captures the way Jesus radically redefines family and invites 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.*





## *In This Feast of Love*

**ACS 962**

*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* *täs - sä*  
1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

*pöy - däs - sä* *syn - ti - sil - le*  
feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

*it - se - si an - nat,* *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*  
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

## *Deep Peace*

**ACS 1018**

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the

flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to

you, deep peace of the qui - et earth.

## *All Earth Is Hopeful*

**#266**

**\*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      "Glory to God"      ***Breck School's Advanced Concert Chorale***

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



## Acknowledgments

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“We Are Waiting” Text: John Helgen, b. 1957. Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen. Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

“Psalm 72” Music: Tom Witt.

“Stay Awake!” Words and music by Bret Hesla and Paul Andress © 2022 Bret Hesla. All rights reserved.

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“Deep Peace” Text: Celtic traditional; adapt, Ray Makeever, b.1943. Music: DEEP PEACE, Ray Makeever. Text and music © 2009 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“All Earth Is Hopeful” Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946  
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# Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Esther Sianipar
Preaching:	Martha Schwehn-Bardwell
Reader:	Nancy Nygaard Johnson
Prayers:	Craig Johnson
Special Music:	Breck School's Advanced Concert Choral
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:	Eli Blumenshine, Sadie Lindley, Roy Comstock

## **Breck School's Advanced Concert Chorale**

This is the premiere, auditioned SATB upper school choral ensemble at Breck School. The group performs choral repertoire from all genres and historical periods at a high artistic level. Performance opportunities include, but are not limited to, winter and spring choral concerts, singing for Chapel services, on campus sporting events, on and off-campus community performances as well as performing the National Anthem at Minnesota Twins and Timberwolves games, and competing in the MSHSL-sponsored Solo and Large Group Contests.

Dr. Camilla J. Horne, Director

Kate Mariana Brown, Collaborative Pianist

# **This week at OSLC:**

**Wednesday, December 10**

8:30AM-9:30AM DABS

10:15AM Bible Study (HC/Zoom)

5:30PM Advent Meal

6PM Advent Liturgy

6:30PM Choir

**Saturday, December 13**

9AM-Noon Quilting

**Sunday, December 14**

9AM Getting Ready for Las Posadas + Welcoming Rachel Svanoe Moynihan

## **SERMON NOTES**



# 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

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<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Esther K. Sianipar</b> <a href="mailto:esther@oursavioursmpls.org">esther@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	(612) 871-2967 opt 2
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	<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