

# Reconciling In Christ Sunday



January 25th, 2026  
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 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: Our Saviour's Community Services-Housing

Our Saviour's Housing (OSH) includes both the Emergency Shelter, and Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Currently 111 residents participated in Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and 94% remained stably housed and 38 residents living in the Emergency Shelter at full capacity. Your generosity will help OSH navigate a season of change, increase their capacity to operate a physically larger shelter, and continue to enhance the quality of services OSH provides who've experienced homelessness pursue greater housing stability.

**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 after Epiphany

*God claims all people in the fullness of their sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, beliefs, and abilities. Today we focus on God's call for all people to live, serve, and lead in the fullness of who they are. When we work together for justice, communities are stronger, and the Spirit gives us the gifts and the power. Thanks be to God!*

## Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, One God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

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.**



\*=indicates God's children rise in body or spirit

## \*Opening Hymn

## *Dazzling Bouquet*

*Refrain:* Mine is the church where ev - ery - bo - dy's wel - come.  
 1. Come here, all you six - foot glad - i - o - las.  
 2. We don't sim - ply tol - er - ate each other.  
 3. Our de - mons keep try - ing to di - vide us;

I know it's true 'cause I got through the door.  
 Come all you pur - ple li - lacs shin - ing bright.  
 We ask and tell, we don't just turn a - way.  
 They doc - u - ment their lies to make them true.

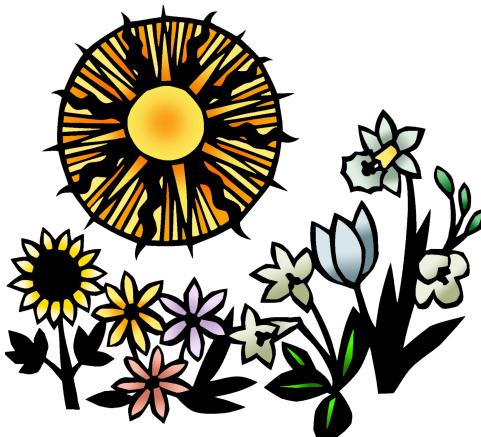
We are a dazzling bou - quel of ev - ery kind of flow - er.  
 Come let us all bloom to - geth - er in one gar - den:  
 We give at - ten - tion to ev - ery bud and blos - som.  
 To - day we're freed from our judg - ing and ex - clu - ding.

Jump in the vase, 'cause we've got space for more.  
 A car - ni - val of fra - grance and de - light. *(Refrain)*  
 Let ev - ery face come grace the grand bou - quel. *(Refrain)*  
 Just look a - round en - joy the love - ly view. *(Refrain)*

## \*Greetings

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 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time God brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time God will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

## Second Reading

**Pauli Murray**

*Our Second Reading comes from Rev. Dr. Pauli Murrray, adapted from her poem "Dark Testament." Murray was a queer Black writer, lawyer, social justice activist and Episcopal priest (1910-1985).*

Hope is a song in a weary throat.

O God, give us a song of hope. And a world where we can sing it.

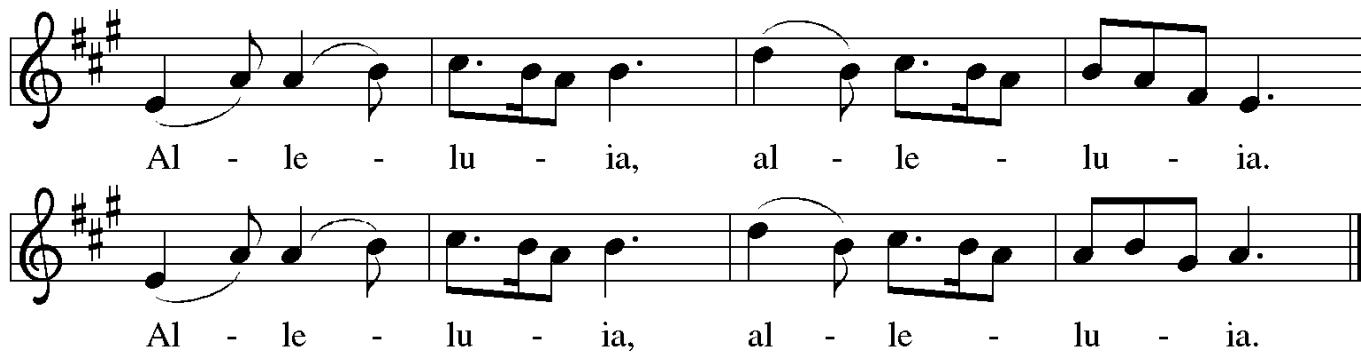
**Give us a song of faith and a people to believe in it.**

Give us a song of kindness and a country where we can live it.

**Give us a song of hope and love. And open hearts to hear it.**

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

## \*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Gospel

**Matthew 4:12-23** (Spark Bible p. 258)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O God.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for human beings.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, Jesus saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the dominion of heaven and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

There is space for sermon notes on the insert page.

### \*Hymn of the Day

### *Come Now, All Inclusive Spirit*

The musical score consists of four staves of music for two voices. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The time signature is 4/4. The music is divided into three sections by changes in key and melody. Chords are indicated above the staves.

**Chords and Key Changes:**

- Section 1 (Treble 1):** G, G major 7/B, C, C/E, C/G, G, D/F#, A7/E, D.
- Section 2 (Treble 2):** G, G major 7/B, C, C/E, C/G, G, C, A major/C, G/D, D, G.
- Section 3 (Bass):** D7, E minor, G/D, D, G, D/F#, A7/E, D.
- Section 4 (Treble 1):** G, C, C/G, G, C, A major/C, G/D, D, G.
- Section 5 (Bass):** G, C, C/G, G, C, A major/C, G/D, D, G.

**Lyrics:**

1. Come now, all - in - clu-sive Spir - it; dwell with - in our minds and souls;  
2. Come now, all - in - clu-sive Spir - it; help us build com - mu - ni - ty;  
3. Come now, all - in - clu-sive Spir - it; guide us on to o - pen doors;

fill us all with deep com - pas - sion so that kind - ness o - ver-flows.  
give us grace to heal di - vi - sions, co - cre - at - ing har - mo - ny.  
help us wel - come all our neigh - bors, spread - ing love from shore to shore.

All - in - clu - sive, peace - ful Spir - it, send Your pow - er through the earth;

join - ing in Your heal - ing mis - sion, we will la - bor for re - birth.

### \*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.**

## Gathering our Gifts

*Once We Were No People*

*Patrick Evans*

*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.*

## \*Offertory

*To the melody of Come All You People*

Come all you people

Come and thank the Spirit (3x)

Come now and worship our God

## \*Offertory Prayer

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Living God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*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.*

## *Come And Seek The Ways Of Wisdom*



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when  
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the  
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,  
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,  
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the  
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes  
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.  
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.  
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

## *Though the Earth Shall Change*

ACS 1035



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

## *When I Feel Dispair*

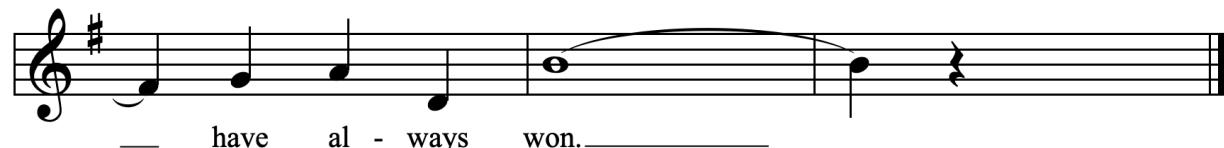
*Bret Hesla*



When I feel \_\_ des-pair I re - mem - ber that

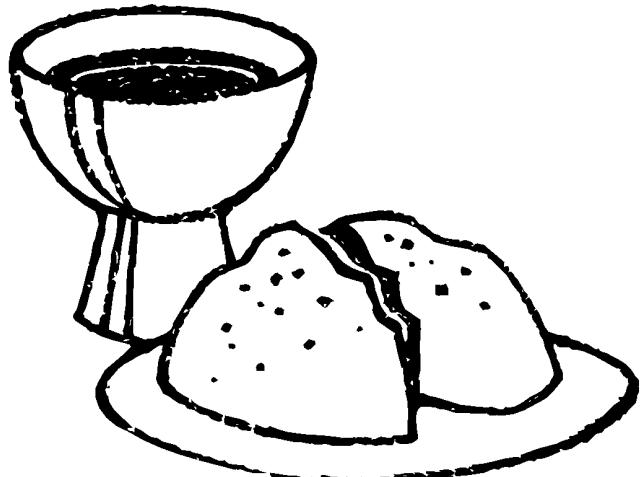


truth and love I re - mem - ber that truth and love.



have al - ways won.

\*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

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

## Postlude

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

## Acknowledgments

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

# Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell & Esther Sianipar
Preaching:	Oby Ballinger
Reader:	Ott Abrahamson
Prayers:	Joel Abrahamson
Special Music:	Javen Swanson
Musicians:	Alyssa Schwitzer & Kent Goodroad
Sound:	Mike Libby
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson
Communion Recruiters:	5th & 6th graders
Window Blinds:	Remi Hanson

## This week at OSLC:

**Wednesday, January 28**  
8:30AM-9:30AM DIN  
10:15AM Bible Study (HC/Zoom)

**Saturday, January 31**  
5PM-9PM Indigenous Cooking Class

**Sunday, February 1**

Book study: See Me, Believe Me: A Guide to Deepen Allyship with Congregational Leaders of Color (Session 1 of 2)

# SERMON NOTES



## RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2026

### Celebrating Diversity as God's Children



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

For more information, check out [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)

# Our Saviour's Staff

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



**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  
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www.oursavioursmpls.org

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