



December 17, 2023  
Advent 3

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin  
608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt  
Pastor Jean R. Schmidt



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** God gathers us through Word and Sacrament to celebrate God's presence and to receive God's gift of grace. God has made us his people through our baptism and keeps us close to him through the preaching of the word and God's presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We give thanks today for the gift of faith God has planted in us, and we depart to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We extend a special **welcome** to those who are our guests. May God bless this time of worship for you as we are blessed by your presence. If you have no church home we invite you to join with us and consider Our Savior's as your church home. If you are not baptized and would like to talk about baptism as part of your faith journey, please speak with one of the pastors.

**FELLOWSHIP PADS:** We ask everyone to sign and pass the fellowship pad in the pew and return it to the rack when done.

**OFFERING:** No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website: [oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving](http://oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving). Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Or use the QR Code to the right.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.



# Order of Worship

\*Please stand as you are able

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

**\*READING** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good;

<sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## **\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

**READING**      Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR CANTATA**

"Joy"

Senior Choir

Composed & Arranged by Joel Raney  
Orchestrated by Ed Hogan

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## **\*PRAYERS**

P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*(After a brief silence...The **congregation** is invited to read aloud individually the prayer petitions as the spirit moves them. If more than one person reads the petition, all the better!)*

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church here at Our Savior's and at our living faith partners at Bethany Mauston a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, be with those who are isolated, alone and homebound. Especially this week we pray for Gloria, Arnie, and Kathy. Surround them with your loving embrace and fill them with your gifts of life and hope. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and bring peace to those in war torn areas – Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Hamas. Provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Watch over your servants that they may be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Amy, Paige, and Grace as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.  
**Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)*

### **MISSION MOMENT**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

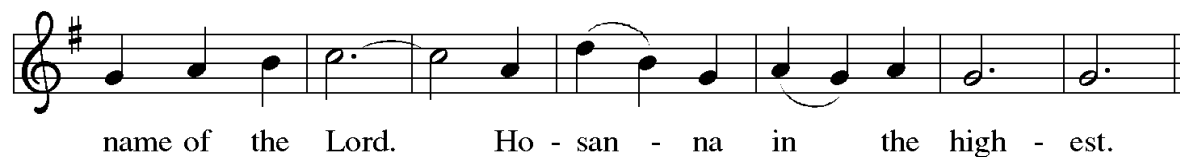
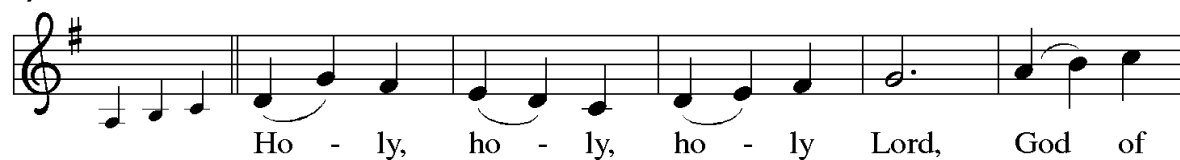
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed our right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**      page 112 *(in front of hymnal)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

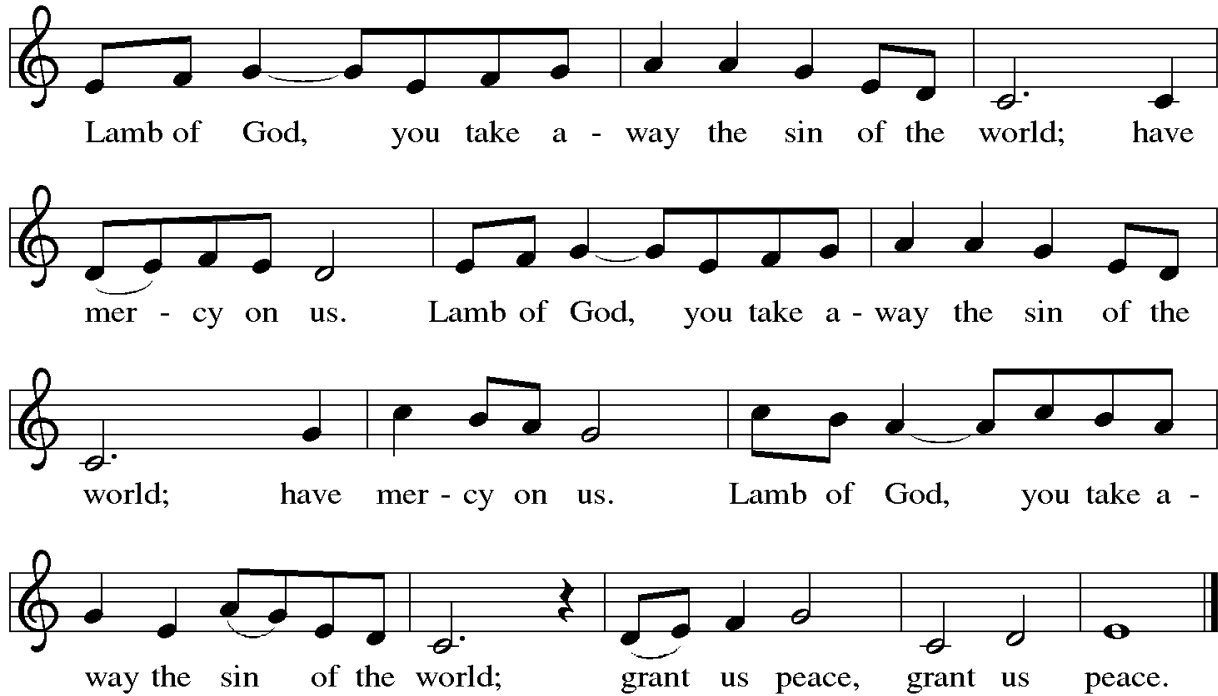
In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

**HOLY COMMUNION** *All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Both wine and grape juice are available – grape juice glasses are circled in purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.*



**AGNUS DEI** "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" **#311**

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION**

**\*BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

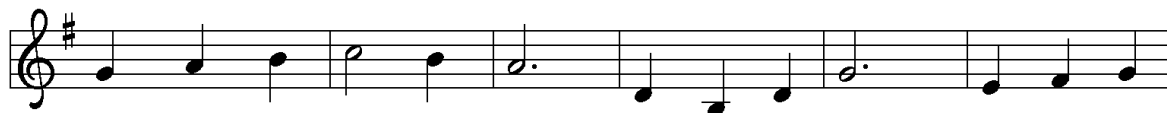
**\*HYMN**

"Drawn to the Light"

**#593**



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
 2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
 3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
 dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
 one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
 pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
 gun when we're drawn to the light of God.



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

**\*DISMISSAL** *(Done from the back of the church)*

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## OUR SAVIOR'S WORSHIP TEAM

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217  
Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217  
Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music  
Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician  
Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**8 a.m.**  
Worship Assistant Deanna Christianson  
Communion Assistant Sharon Olson  
Welcoming Team Byom Family

**10:30 a.m.**  
Worship Assistant Arianna Clements  
Communion Assistant Kyle Twite  
Welcoming Team Stefferud Family

Home Communion Ilene Pavelko  
Altar Guild for December Pam Gresens

### SENIOR CHOIR

**Director - Eric Sorenson**  
**Accompanist - Linda Berg**  
**Narrator - Jim Quamme**

#### **Soprano**

Dottie Baumgartner  
Lynette Ender  
Jan Goetzinger  
Melissa Haldeman  
Dori Jensen  
Vicky Johnson  
Ruby Kerkman  
Brenda Skittone

#### **Alto**

Naoko Giblin  
Bonny Goodenough  
Pam Gresens  
Carolyn Karl  
Jennifer Linse  
Ilene Pavelko  
Candice Tlustosch

#### **Bass**

Keith Goetzinger  
Mike Larson  
Dean Olson

#### **Tenor**

Lisa Cash  
Carla Burkhardt  
Jim Quamme

**CARD MINISTRY** - Please be sure to sign the cards for this week's shut-ins, Kathy Brisson and Gloria & Arnie Thompson. The cards are on the table by the Pre-K/K classroom.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** - A time for fellowship and treats between services on Sundays! Please sign up to bring treats or to serve what others have provided.

**CONFIRMATION AFTER SCHOOL & CLASS**

**Wednesday, December 20**

3:30 pm – after school

6 pm – 6 Confirmation Class

**HUNGRY JAR OFFERING FOR DECEMBER  
SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**

Across the US, too many kids go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors, which has adverse effects on their physical and mental health. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national organization with local chapters – one right here in LaCrosse. They are a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds free of charge to children and families in need.

Each bed that SHP delivers to a child sleeping on the floor offers comfort and safety. Oftentimes, the kids who get their beds have never owned a bed of their own. Every kid deserves a good night's rest. \$250 will sponsor a bed and mattress, along with a pillow, sheet set, and comforter. Our gifts make sure kiddos have a comfy place to lay their heads at night.

**CHECK IT OUT AND GIVE IT A TRY!**

If you play piano and want to try your Christmas piano music on the organ, come up to the balcony Sunday, December 17 after the 10:30 service and let's hear what it sounds like! Linda will be there to help you. All ages welcome!

**"ADVENTING" with the people of God** - at St. Teresa (210 E. Hamlin St.) - December 20 @ 7 PM. We join with St Teresa's and the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to edge even closer to the manger at Bethlehem. Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, and cider to follow.

**SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE**

Help support Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger!



Culver's, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash.



**STEWARDSHIP** - If you have not returned your intent card, please do so as soon as possible. Together we can make a difference with God's blessings.

**THANK YOU!** To those who participated in our annual tree and church decorating this year – Jeff & Melissa Haldeman, Clara Cody & Weston & Amara, Carla Burkhardt, Lydia Jothen, Ty, Candice, Emelia, Addy, & Ellie Tlustosch, Jason & Nate Stefferud. Thanks to Jon & Lynnette Labus for once again hand-picking beautiful Christmas trees that perfectly fit our sanctuary.



### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

*We are there, at the manger  
Worshiping the child!*

1:30 + 3:30 + 5:30 + 10 PM

Music ... Holy Communion ... Candlelight ...  
and the Christmas Gospel

***Livestream – 3:30 + 10 PM***

*Access on home page of web site  
"live" or anytime later!*



### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Monday, December 25 + 10 AM*

Worship with Holy Communion

*In the light of day rejoice as we continue to celebrate  
the wonder of the newborn Christ!*

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** – December 24 & 31.

**NO CONFIRMATION CLASS** – December 27.

### **CARE AND SHARE FOOD PANTRY**



The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. We are thankful for all the donations we have recently received. Many local families have benefited from your generosity. Monetary, food, and personal items are always appreciated.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** - If you haven't already received your offering envelopes for 2024 in the mail, you should be receiving them soon. As the New Year begins, if you still need envelopes, please let Kris know in the office and she will gladly get some for you.

*Note:* it is possible you will have a new number in 2024, so be sure to use the 2024 envelopes beginning in January.

Also note, if you use electronic giving, you will still receive envelopes as you need to have a giving number.

**END OF YEAR GIVING** - In order to be included on your 2023 giving statement, gifts must be received in the church office **by 11 AM on December 31, 2023**. Any checks dated 2024, regardless of when they are received, will be acknowledged for 2024.



**2023 ANNUAL REPORTS** – written and financial reports are due into the office by Monday, January 8.

**ANNUAL MEETING** – has been set for Sunday, January, 28, 2024 following the 10:30 worship service.

Check out the December newsletter ([www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)) to find out more.