



December 2-3, 2023
Advent 1

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin
608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
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: oursaviorswestsaalem.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 "What Child Is This" & "Away in a Manger"
Handbell Choir

WELCOME

READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that
make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for
the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of
salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

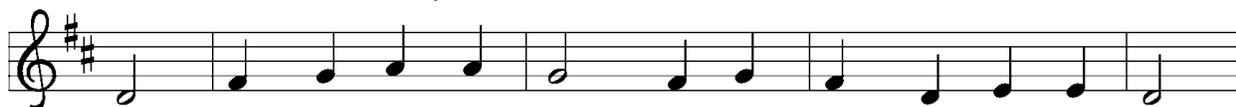
God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

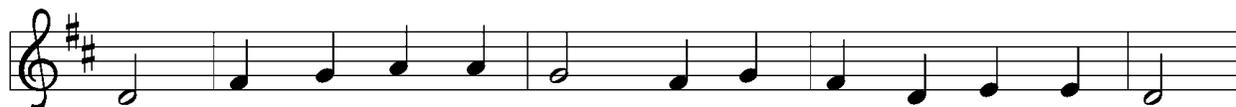
***HYMN**

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

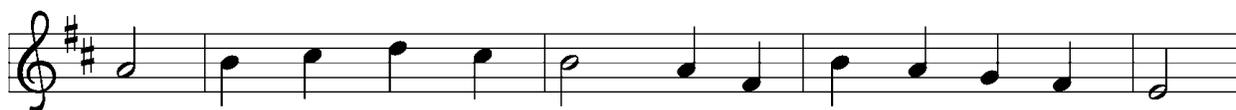
#241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

***GREETING**

page 98

(in front of the hymnal)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

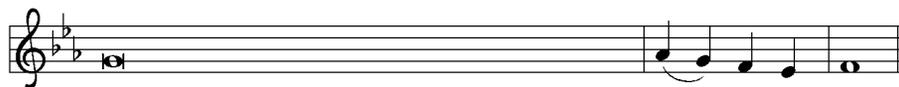
page 98 (in front of the hymnal)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



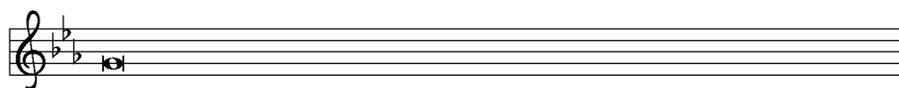
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



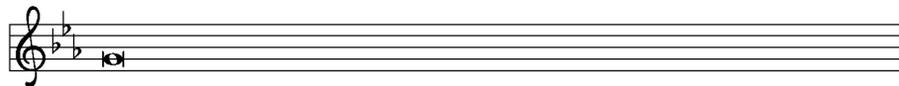
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' written below the notes. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below the notes. The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns suitable for a handbell choir.

***GOSPEL** Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

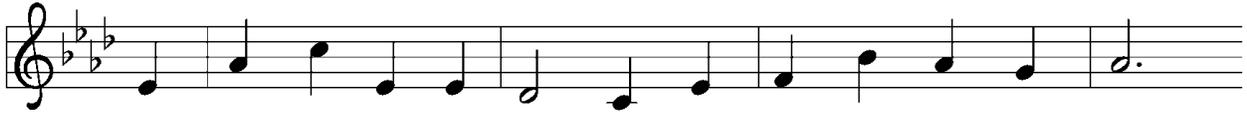
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244



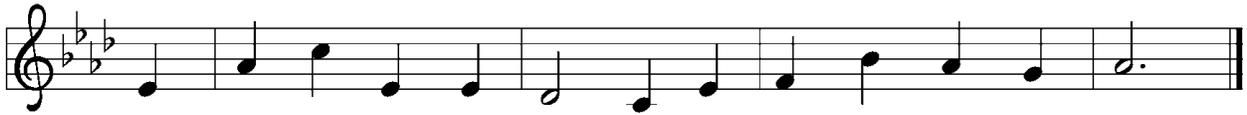
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

***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!)*

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially in West Salem, through our living faith partners in Bethany Mauston, and around the world. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, especially between Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Hamas; teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems; and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Accompany those who are isolated, alone, or homebound especially Bobbie. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Watch over your servants that they may be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Addy and Briauna 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.

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC 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 "Christ, Be Our Light"

#715

*POST COMMUNIONS 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

"The King Shall Come"

#260



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

*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

6 p.m.
Worship Assistant Max Langrehr
Reader Karen DeSchepper
Communion Assistant Judy Morzinski
Welcoming Team Maki Family

8 a.m.
Worship Assistant Olivia Sprehn
Communion Assistant Eric Iliff
Welcoming Team Matt & Stephanie Sprehn

10:30 a.m.
Worship Assistant Alana Steinke
Communion Assistant Carla Burkhardt
Welcoming Team Baganz Family

Home Communion Pam Gresens
Altar Guild for December Pam Gresens

CARD MINISTRY - Please be sure to sign the card for this week's shut-in, Bobbie Broughton. The card 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.

DECK THE HALLS - Sunday, December 3 following the 10:30 am service. Please join us as we put up the trees and decorate the rest of the church for Advent and Christmas. Hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies will be provided. Your whole family is invited to have fun and make memories.

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.

CONFIRMATION AFTER SCHOOL & CLASS

Wednesday, December 6

3:30 pm – after school

6 pm – 6 Confirmation Class

7 pm – 7,8,9 Confirmation Class- join us for
Hanging of the Greens Worship

HANGING OF THE GREENS WORSHIP - Wednesday, December 6 at 7 PM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – “Follow the Star” Sunday,
December 10 – 10:30 AM.

Christmas Program rehearsal - Saturday, December 9 @ **3-5 PM** - note time change!!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA “Joy” – Sunday, December 17 @ 8 & 10:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING - at St. Teresa - December 20 @ 7 PM. We join with St Teresa’s and the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to enjoy the carols that are so much a part of the season.

EGGNOG & CAROLS – December 10 – 6 PM @ Hunters. Just like “Beer and Hymns,” only December style. Join us for a fun time of carols and treats. We’ll provide the music – you provide whatever you want to eat and drink. And it doesn’t have to be eggnog!

NORWEGIAN DINNER DISBURSEMENT MEETING - December 10 – 9:15 AM

POINSETTIAS - If you would like to purchase or provide a poinsettia for Christmas Eve, please fill out a form located in the Gathering Area and return it to church by December 6th. The cost of a poinsettia will be \$25.

LAKEVIEW CARING TREE – If you took a tag from the Lakeview Caring Tree, please remember the gifts (*wrapped with the tag on the outside of the package*) are due back in the office by December 8th. Thank you for helping to make Christmas just a little brighter for our neighbors!

SENIOR CONNECTION – Tuesday, December 12 @Linda’s Bakery.

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.



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



YouTube (*and maybe Livestream?*) Worship

*Recording of the 3:30 PM
Christmas Eve worship
posted on web site by 7 PM*

Access video on home page of web site

*Watch home page for Livestreaming – we hope to be
"live" by Christmas Eve*



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!*

Check out the December newsletter (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) to find out more.