



January 6-7, 2024
Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord

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: 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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you. We

have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the

Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us, that we might proclaim

your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken: The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

***HYMN**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

#275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

***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.

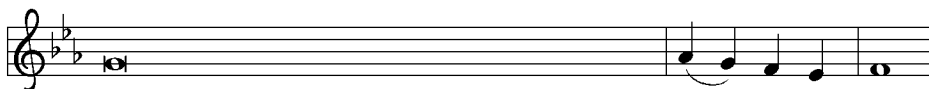
*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



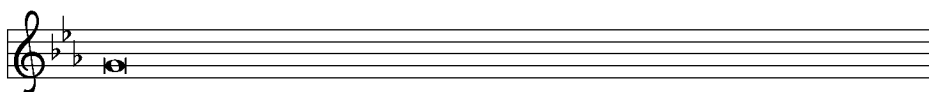
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



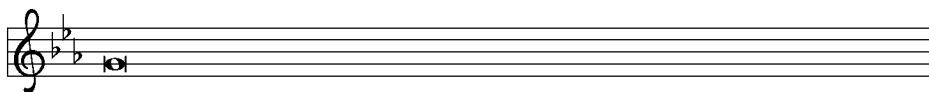
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

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

Refrain

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 -

Refrain

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me

word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN

“Baptized and Set Free”

#453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set 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: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(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!)*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Empower your people, O God of generosity. As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, may we generously offer our gifts to you. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. God of grace,
receive our prayer,

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. Bring peace to those who are isolated, alone, or homebound especially, Paul, Marilyn, and Diane. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation and our living faith partners at Bethany Mauston, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Make your servants faithful disciples of Jesus, God of faithfulness. Be with our confirmation students, especially Kristen, Sophia, and Arianna as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

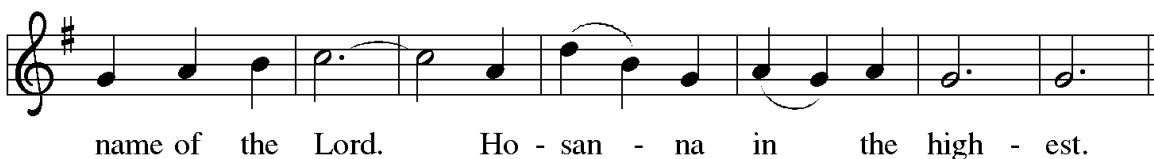
Lift up your hearts.

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**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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 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**"The First Noel"****#300*****POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION**BLESSING**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

*DISMISSAL (Done from the back of the church)

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

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

CARD MINISTRY - Please be sure to sign the cards for this week's shut-ins, Paul & Marilyn Ranum and Diane McClintock. 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Mya Peterson
Communion Assistant Kim Arentz
Welcoming Team Chad Vick Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Madison Phillips
Communion Assistant Trudy Drugg
Welcoming Team Berit Gilbertson

10:30 a.m.

Worship Assistant Ethan Quackenbush
Communion Assistant Tracy Hesse
Welcoming Team Rich & Beth Clements Family

Home Communion Rasmussen Family
Altar Guild for January Wendy Amundson

CONFIRMATION AFTER SCHOOL & CLASS

Wednesday, January 10

- 6 pm – 6 Confirmation Class
- 6 pm – 7 Confirmation Class
- 7 pm – 8 Confirmation Class
- 7 pm – 9 Confirmation Class

WEEKLY WATER FACTS - Water is the most important resource in the world. Water is part of a deeply interconnected system. What we pour on the ground ends up in our water, and what we spew into the sky ends up in our water. Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs- all its agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community, and personal needs.

HUNGRY JAR OFFERING FOR JANUARY – Our Savior’s LaCrosse Women’s Clothes Closet



The mission of the Women’s Clothes Closet of Our Savior’s LaCrosse is to support the dignity of all women providing new or gently used clothing, accessories, and sundry items to women who are entering the workforce, in the workforce, or otherwise in need. Started in 1997, the Women’s Clothes Closet was created as a project by a student social worker at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. In 2022, the Women’s Clothes Closet had 162 new clients and 1,271 existing clients, and received 289 donations that included clothing, shoes, new undergarments, jewelry, accessories, coats, make-up, and personal care items. New visitors to the Women’s Clothes Closet can choose three complete outfits. Returning visitors can select one outfit per visit, up to two times per month. No questions are asked about income or employment status.

SENIOR CONNECTION – Tuesday, January 9 @ at Linda’s Bakery -9:30 AM.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE – into the office by Monday, January 8.

ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, January 28 following the 10:30 am worship.

SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE

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

KWIK TRIP

WOODMAN’S



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

TECH INVITE - As we continue to roll out our new tech in the sanctuary, we are looking for folk who are interested in “working the system.” If you might be one of them, Dean Olson invites you to join him during worship and see how it all comes together – and maybe discover that it isn’t as overwhelming as it looks! See Dean or Pastor Jon for more information.

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.

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

If you missed it last year, not to fear ... it's back! ... bring a dish to share or just come and enjoy the treats ...



**Second annual
Mardi Gras Fest**
Shake off the winter blahs!
Come one ... come all
Sunday, February 11
3 - 5 PM

Join us for ...

Food ... prizes ... music ... activities for kids ...

Cook up a batch of your favorite recipe, bring it to church, along with a copy of your recipe. We'll serve small samples, and see whose recipes are the favorites! Talk to Pastor Jean for more details. Sign up in the Gathering Area!

Sample the food ... and vote for your favorites!