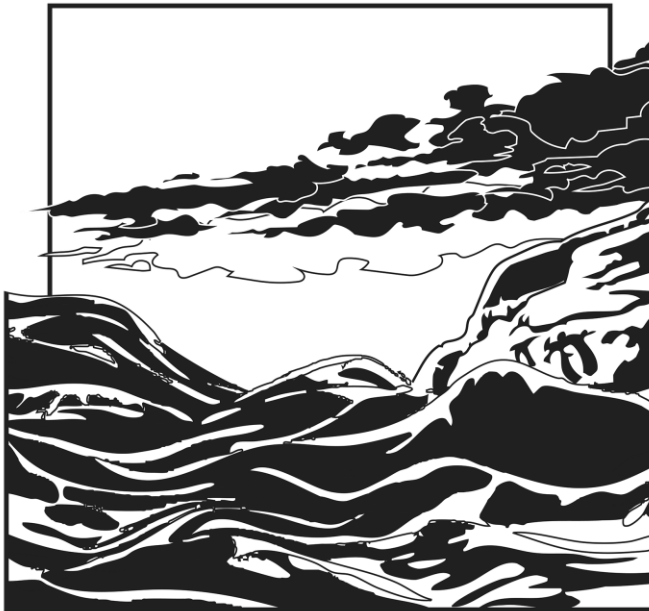


**Our mission
is to teach,
love,
and connect...
teach all ages
about Jesus,
love one another
as God loves us,
and connect
with others
in a hurting world.**

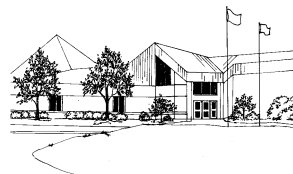
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

11:00 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026



Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

**8305 Nottingham Parkway
Louisville, Kentucky 40222
Church (502) 426-1130
School (502) 426-0864**



**Church: www.oursaviorlouisville.com, www.facebook.com/oursaviorlouisville
School: www.oslslouisville.com, www.facebook.com/OSLSLouisville**

We warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus!

We are always glad to have you worship with us.

*If you do not have a regular church home,
we invite you to make our church home yours.*

- † Our worship services are on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We also invite and encourage you to join us in Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:45 AM.
- † Assisted hearing devices, children's bulletins, and large print service folders are available; please ask an usher for one.
- † While we encourage children to be present in worship, the upstairs cry room opposite the elevator is available for you.
- † Our worship services can now be viewed on the church's Facebook page (live or after the service), as well as on our YouTube channel. *The Lutheran Hour* can be heard on Sundays at 9:00 AM at KAWZ (102.7FM).

Prayer before worship:

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

AS WE GATHER The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and "the shadow of death" (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah's prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live "in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali" (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God's voice directly saying, "Follow me"? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling among us. And while that's no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, "Repent" and "Follow Me," even in the ordinary details of life.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF BELL

OPENING SONG

“Here I Am to Worship”

by T. Hughes

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Refrain: So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor. *Refrain*

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross. *Refrain*

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WELCOME

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 43:4; Matthew 4:16

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, . . .

People: **on them a light has dawned.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Psalm 22:22

Pastor: Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, "I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You."

Upon this your confession, I, as an ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now, let us follow Him!

People: Amen.

Remain standing for the Song of Praise.

SONG OF PRAISE **"There Is a Higher Throne"** by Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

**There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known;
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace:
Salvation comes.**

Chorus **Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks and honor are
To God, our King, who reigns on high,
Forever more.**

**And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
Where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
As thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
We'll reign with Him.**

Chorus

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Please be seated.

COME AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!

OLD TESTAMENT READING *The light of God's reign breaks into the world.*

Isaiah 9:1–4

Reader: There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 1

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**People: When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

Leader: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

**People: One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**People: And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Leader: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."
Hide not your face from me.

**People: Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!**

EPISTLE READING

Divisions in the church.

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Reader: I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. *Please stand in reverence to the Gospel.*

HOLY GOSPEL

Jesus begins calling the first disciples.

Matthew 4:12–25

Pastor: Hear now the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

Pastor: When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

While walking 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. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He

ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

SONG

"I Will Follow"

by C. Tomlin, J. Ingram, R. Morgan

Leader: Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow.

Verse All Your ways are good. All Your ways are sure.
I will trust in You alone.
Higher than my sight, high above my life.
I will trust in You alone.

Chorus Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow You.
Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.

Verse Light into the world, Light into my life,
I will live for You alone.
You're the One I seek. Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone, In You alone. *Chorus*

Bridge In You, there's life everlasting. In You, there's freedom for my soul.
In You, there's joy, unending joy, And I will follow.

Chorus 2 Where You, go I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow.

Where You, go I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow.
Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.
I will follow You. Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.

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SERMON

"The Surprising Life-Changing Call: Follow Jesus!"

Matthew 4:12–25

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD.

WE PRAISE THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS *Tithes and offerings are collected by the ushers. We encourage you to sign and pass the Friendship Book at this time. All communicants are invited to read and prayerfully consider the following.*

We believe that...

- † *Holy Communion is a Sacrament since it was instituted by Christ Himself.*
- † *We are truly worthy and well prepared to partake of Holy Communion when we repent of our sins and have faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins."*
- † *We receive the bread and wine and the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ when, as repentant, true believers we partake of Holy Communion.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church practices close communion.

What does this mean?

Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are welcome to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of our church or one of our sister congregations, we encourage you to speak to the pastor about preparing to participate in communion at Our Savior.

- † *Children and those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing (indicated by folded hands), or to remain seated for individual prayer. When the wine is offered, communicants have the choice of an individual cup or the common cup. Individual cups containing DARK WINE are alcohol-free for those with medical need only, please.*

OFFERTORY

Please stand.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE AND SANCTUS

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

People: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ☩ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ☩ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PEACE and AGNUS DEI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

DISTRIBUTION

Please be seated. If you are communing, please follow the directions of the ushers.

SONG

“This Is Our God”

by R. Morgan

Praise Team: Your grace is enough, more than I need.
At Your word I will believe.
I wait for You, draw near again,
Let Your Spirit make me new.

And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet. And I will worship You here.

**ALL: Your presence in me, Jesus light the way
By the power of Your Word.
I am restored, I am redeemed,
By Your Spirit I am free**

**Chorus 1: And I will fall at Your feet,
I will fall at Your feet.
And I will worship You here.**

**Chorus 2: Freely You gave it all for us,
Surrendered Your life upon that cross.
Great is the love poured out for all,
This is our God.
Lifted on high from death to life,
Forever our God is glorified.
Servant and King rescued the world.
This is our God.**

Chorus 1 Twice

Chorus 2

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Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance on you and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”

LSB 856, st. 1, 3, 4

- 1 O Christ, who called the Twelve
To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways
For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call
To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You,
Find perfect liberty.**
- 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve
Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all
Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways
Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills
Where love is crucified.**
- 4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve
On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim
The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith
Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains
Both life and ministry.**

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SILENT PRAYER/POSTLUDE

Rev. Mark Whitsett, Rev. Ron Richeson

Vacancy Pastors

Mr. Chip Davidson

Principal

Mr. Scott Kamman

Director of Music

Mrs. Corrine Burmeister

DCE Intern

Mrs. Margy Whitsett

Deaconess

Readings for next Sunday, 2/1: Micah 6:1–8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18–31, Matthew 5:1–12

Third Sunday after the Epiphany