

**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 IN ADVENT

11:00 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



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.oslsloisville.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 It is certainly easy to complain. We all do it. We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and we see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find only complaint and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF BELL

ANTHEM-ALLELUIA CHOIR “Away in a Manger”

traditional

OPENING SONG “House of the Lord”

J. Smith & P. Wickham

We worship the God who was.
We worship the God who is.
We worship the God who evermore will be.
He opened the prison doors.
He parted the raging sea.
My God, He holds the victory.

Chorus There’s joy in the house of the Lord.
 There’s joy in the house of the Lord today.
 And we won’t be quiet.
 We shout out Your praise.
 There’s joy in the house of the Lord.
 Our God is surely in this place.
 And we won’t be quiet.
 We shout out Your praise. We shout out Your praise.

We sing to the God who heals.
We sing to the God who saves.
We sing to the God who always makes a way.
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave.
My God’s still rolling stones away. *Chorus*

Bridge We were the beggars.
 Now we’re royalty.
 We were the pris’ners.
 Now we’re running free.
 We are forgiven, accepted,
 Redeemed by His grace.
 Let the house of the Lord sing praise.

Chorus

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WELCOME

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Psalms 146:5, 7b-8a; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

People: **The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As an ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.** *We share the peace of Christ with those around us.*

COME AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.

Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re-joyce, 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'ings 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!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish, Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *“Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.”*

Isaiah 35:1–10

Reader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 146; antiphon: v. 5

Leader: Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**People: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Leader: Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**People: When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**People: who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

**People: The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

Leader: The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**People: The LORD will reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

EPISTLE READING

"Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord."

James 5:7–11

Reader: Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand in reverence to the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 11:2–15

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

Pastor: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has

suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

"King of Kings" by B. Ligertwood, J. Ingram, S. Ligertwood

**In the darkness we were waiting,
Without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven You came running.
There was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfil the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.**

Chorus

**Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of Glory, majesty, Praise forever to the King of kings.**

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross.
For even in Your suffering,
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus, for our sake You died. *Chorus***

**And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs,**

And the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name,
In His freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *Chorus*

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SERMON

"The Patience of a Prophet"

James 5:10

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: Let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: That we who here receive this Holy Sacrament be granted the fullness of what is to come when at last the dead shall be raised and the heavens and earth be made new and all the people of God reunited in the eternal dwelling place of God Most High, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore joining the six-winged seraphim Isaiah saw, saying,

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Before the dawn of the ages, You sent forth from Your love all that is and declared it good. When, in the rebellion against Your goodness, we chose the path of sin and rebellion, You did not stop loving us but promised the day when that love would be enfleshed in Your

own Son, born of the virgin, for the sake of the whole world. Having come in obedience to Your saving will and having offered Himself in our place upon the cross, You have set Your Table among us and called us to feast upon the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

Pastor: We rejoice, Lord Jesus, that You did not remain on Your heavenly throne but entered Your creation for our salvation. With John the Baptist we give thanks and say,

People: "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

"He Will Come and Save You"

by B. Fitts & G. Sadler

**Say to those who are fearful-hearted, do not be afraid;
The Lord, your God, is strong with His mighty arm,
When you call on His name, He will come and save.**

**Chorus: He will come and save you, He will come and save you;
Say to the weary one, your God will surely come,
He will come and save you.
He will come and save you, He will come and save you;
Lift up your eyes to Him, you will arise again,
He will come and save you.**

**Say to those who are broken-hearted, do not lose your faith;
The Lord, your God, is strong with His loving arms,
When you call on His name, He will come and save. *Chorus***

**Bridge: He is our refuge in the day of trouble,
He is our shelter in the time of storm;
He is our tower in the day of sorrow,
our fortress in the time of war. *Repeat chorus.***

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Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor: Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: Thanks be to God.

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 SONG

“God with Us”

by J. Camp, B. Bannister & B. Shive

**Hallelujah, the King has come.
Beautiful Savior, God’s own Son.
Hallelujah, the Christ is here,
So rejoice for our salvation’s near.**

**Chorus: Emmanuel, our humble King,
We give You our hearts as an offering.
You laid down Your crown and became as dust.
Emmanuel, God With Us.**

**Hallelujah, the angels sing
To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.
Hallelujah, the world will see the fullness of His majesty. *Chorus***

**O come all ye faithful our God is here.
Joyful, triumphant, salvation's near.
O come and behold our King.
Come and behold Him.**

**Chorus: Emmanuel, our humble King,
We give You our hearts as an offering.
You laid down Your crown and became as dust.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God With Us.**

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SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Rev. Mark Whitsett

Preaching today

Mr. Chip Davidson

Principal

Mr. Scott Kamman

Director of Music

Mrs. Corrine Burmeister

DCE Intern

Mrs. Margy Whitsett

Deaconess

Readings for next Sunday, 12/21:

Isaiah 7:10–17

Psalm 24

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25
