

December 22, 2024

Advent 4

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin

608-786-0030 [office@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto: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.

**PEACEKEEPER BAGS FOR CHILDREN** to use during worship are available in the coat room.

**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 Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' in the scroll of the book it is written of me ." <sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" these are offered according to the law, <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**



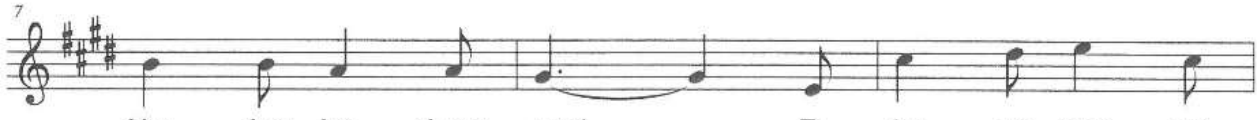
"We Light the Advent Candle"  
Sing verses 1-4



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The love of Christ so  
 2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The hope of Christ so  
 3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The joy of Christ so  
 4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The peace of Christ so  
 (opt.) 5 We light the Ad - vent can - dle. The light of Christ so



dear \_\_\_\_\_ il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's  
 dear \_\_\_\_\_ il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's  
 dear \_\_\_\_\_ il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's  
 dear \_\_\_\_\_ il - lu - mi - nates our dark - ness: God's



king - dom has drawn near! \_\_\_\_\_ To - day we light one  
 king - dom has drawn near! \_\_\_\_\_ To - day we light two  
 king - dom has drawn near! \_\_\_\_\_ To - day we light three  
 king - dom has drawn near! \_\_\_\_\_ To - day we light four  
 king - dom has drawn near! \_\_\_\_\_ This eve we light the



can - dle bright, for proph - e - cy fore - told the night that  
 can - dles bright for arms of love that held him tight the  
 can - dles bright, for an - gels all ar - rayed in white with  
 can - dles bright for Da - vid's cit - y as the site where  
 can - dle bright as God's great love shines through the night that



Je - sus Christ was born, \_\_\_\_\_ that Je - sus Christ\_ was born.  
 night that Christ was born, \_\_\_\_\_ the night that Christ\_ was born.  
 news that Christ was born, \_\_\_\_\_ with news that Christ\_ was born.  
 Je - sus Christ was born, \_\_\_\_\_ where Je - sus Christ\_ was born.  
 Je - sus Christ was born, \_\_\_\_\_ that Je - sus Christ\_ was born.

**READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR CANTATA**

"A Carol Suite"

Senior Choir

**\*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 prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*(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!)*

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Accompany those who are isolated, alone, or homebound, especially Cristi and Luella. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our teacher, we pray for your servants to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Bailey as she seeks to grow in her discipleship, and guide her family that together they may reflect your love and grace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of 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:

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.

**\*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**

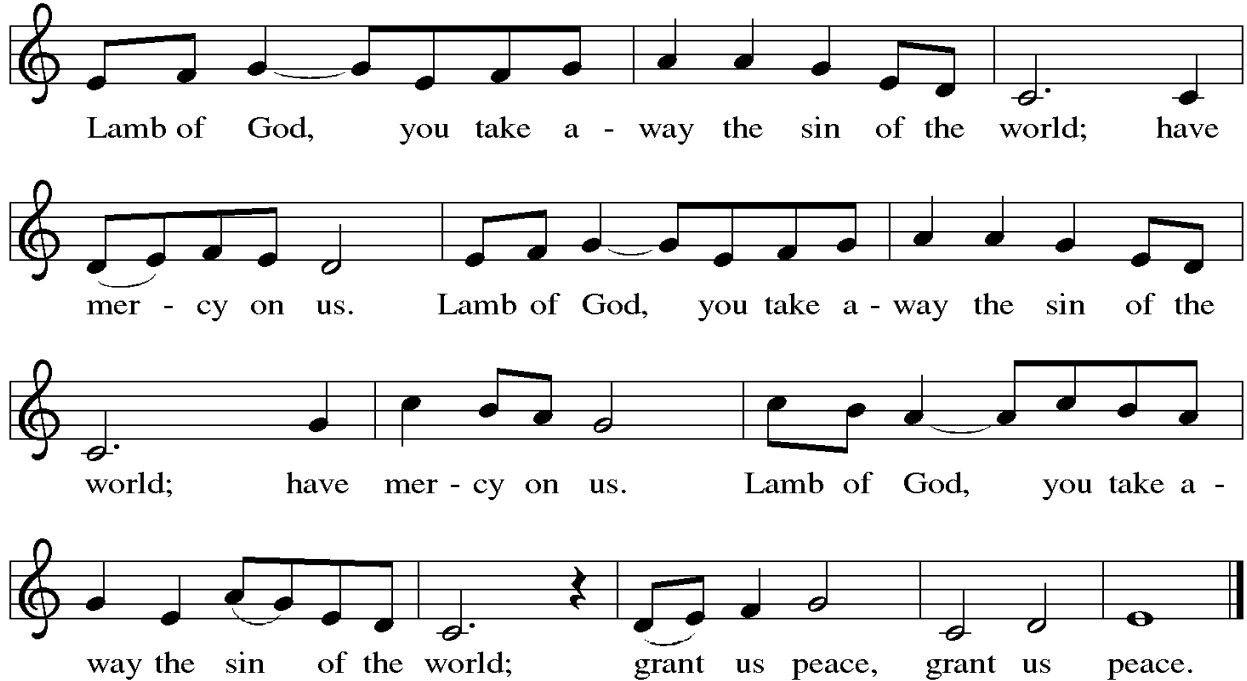
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.



**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 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 HYMNS**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**#257**

"Nothing Can Trouble"

ACS 1003

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.  
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,  
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.  
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist XXX in this ministry on which she is/he is/they are sent forth. Bless her/his/ their time with YY, and in your love and care, nourish and strengthen them in this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. **Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**"Soon and Very Soon"**

**#439**



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

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

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**OUR SAVIOR'S WORSHIP TEAM**

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 608-612-0217  
 Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
 Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 608-612-0217  
 Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
 Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music  
 Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org  
 Wendy Amundson, Youth Director 608-518-9593  
 Email: youthoursaviorswestsalem@gmail.com  
 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, Cristi Johnson and Luella Pierce. 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  
Resumes January 8**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL -December 22 & 29**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**8 a.m.**

Worship Assistant	Kylie Nelson
Communion Assistant	Kyle Twite
Welcoming Team	Scott & Turena Gilbertson

**10:30 a.m.**

Worship Assistant	Harper Niemeier
Communion Assistant	Eric Ender
Welcoming Team	Gullickson Family
Home Communion	Mariette Stefferud
Altar Guild for December	Stacey Sjoquist/Tracy Skrentny

## Senior Choir

**Director Eric Sorenson**  
**Accompanist, Linda Berg**

### **Soprano**

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

### **Alto**

Wendy Amundson  
Carla Burkhardt  
Naoko Giblin  
Bonny Goodenough  
Pam Gresens  
Carolyn Karl  
Jennifer Linse  
Ilene Pavelko  
Candice Tlustosch

### **Tenor**

Lisa Cash  
Dean Olson  
Jim Quamme

### **Bass**

Don Carlson  
Keith Goetzinger  
Mike Larson



## **Hungry Jar Offering for December – LaCrosse Warming Center**

As we anticipate the cold weather ... The La Crosse Warming Center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months from November 1 until May 1. The Warming Center is located at 413 South Third Street in La Crosse. Guests are able to take a shower and wash their clothes. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center. Please be generous as we care for those who are hurting.

### **SCRIP CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**

Scrip cards make great gifts and help support Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger! You can't beat that!!



Culver's, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's.

Available after worship services and in the office during the week.

**THANK YOU!** To those who participated in our annual tree and church decorating this year – Jeff & Melissa Haldeman & Weston, Peter Tanz, Beau Baganz, Carla Burkhardt, Adalyn, Ryland & Krissa Byom, Alise Jothan, Andrea & Addy LaFleur, Easton Massman, Kylie Nelson, Amy & Kirsten Rasmussen, Lexi Schulz, and Anna Vick. Thanks to Jon & Lynnette Labus for once again hand-picking beautiful Christmas trees that perfectly fit our sanctuary.



**WORLD HUNGER** - We can help you make a difference in our world, while doing some holiday shopping. Cards from 2 local artists, Lynnette Wick and Pastor Mitzi Miyamoto, will be on display and may be purchased for \$5 each and proceeds will go to World Hunger. Perfect for gifting or using to send to people in your lives. Thank you for your support.

### **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.



**QUILT TOPS** – Sewers needed for quilt tops. There are packages of quilt squares with simple instructions located in the coat room in the gathering area. Any help is appreciated.

**Check out our social media pages and keep up on what's going on, including livestreaming of worship ...**



Facebook Page - Our Savior's ELCA – West Salem

Instagram Page – oursaviors\_ws

YouTube Channel (for livestream and recording of worship) - [youtube.com/@techoslca](https://www.youtube.com/@techoslca)

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



## Christmas Eve

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

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 10 PM

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



YouTube

### *Christmas Eve 3:30 and 10 PM Worship Livestream*

(find the link on the home page of the web site – [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org))

*Recording available for later viewing on YouTube - Access on home page of web site*



## Christmas Day

*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!*

## Mark your calendars now ...

We will be doing a new pictorial directory in the new year! Pictures will be taken **Wednesday, February 26 through Saturday, March 1**. You can sign up online any time ([www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) – Church Code: wi378 – Password: photos), between worship services, or call the church office and we'll help you. We would LOVE to have EVERYONE included in this new directory.



We will need help signing people up on the weekends before/after worship in December & January. Also, we will need hosts for the welcome table when the pictures are being taken. See Pastor Jean for more information.

## Year End Contributions



With the end of the year fast approaching, this is the time to make sure you are up to date on your financial support of our ministry at Our Savior's. *Your gifts **DO** make a difference!* You can mail your gifts to the

office, go to the church website: [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org), or use the QR code for secure electronic giving options.



In order to be included on your 2024 giving statement, gifts must be received in the church office **by 11 AM on December 31, 2024**. Any checks dated 2025, regardless of when they are received, will be acknowledged for 2025.



## 2025 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't already received your offering envelopes for 2025 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 2025, so be sure to use the 2025 envelopes beginning in January.**



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



## Thinking Ahead ... 2024 Annual Report deadlines

It's hard to imagine, but the new year is right around the corner. And that means getting an annual report together to share with the congregation all that has happened in 2024. We are looking for reflections from the various committees, teams, and ministries to be included in the report. Please note we will need those reports, preferably electronically, in the office as follows: **Written and Financial Reports by Wednesday, January 8.**

**ANNUAL MEETING** - Mark your calendar – the annual meeting has been set for Sunday, **January 26, 2025**, following the 10:30 worship service. We will review our ministry over the past year, set our mission priorities for the coming year, and select leadership. Please plan to join us!