

Our Savior Lutheran

Third Sunday in Advent

Order of Holy Communion

In Nomine Jesu



Music for Meditation & Prayer

Ring of the Bells

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort

Greetings & Announcements

Hymn of Invocation

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Text: Johann Olearius; Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David – “Freu Dich Sehr”; LSB #347 © 2006 CPH



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

(Stand)

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C A - men

(Kneel)

Confession of Sins

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father; beseeching Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

P Our help is in the Name of the Lord,



C Who made heav'n and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,



C And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

(Psalm 32:5)

C *O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.*

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of 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.



C A - men.

(John 20:19-23)

(Stand)

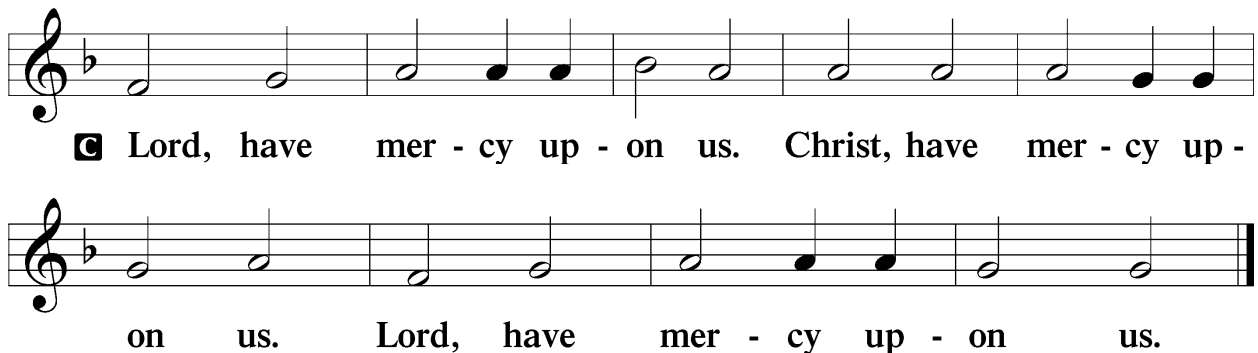
Introit

“Gaudete”

(Intoned by Laetare with Congregation on Gloria Patri; Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4–5)

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*
The Lord | is at hand.
Lord, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.
Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?
Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*
The Lord | is at hand.

Kyrie

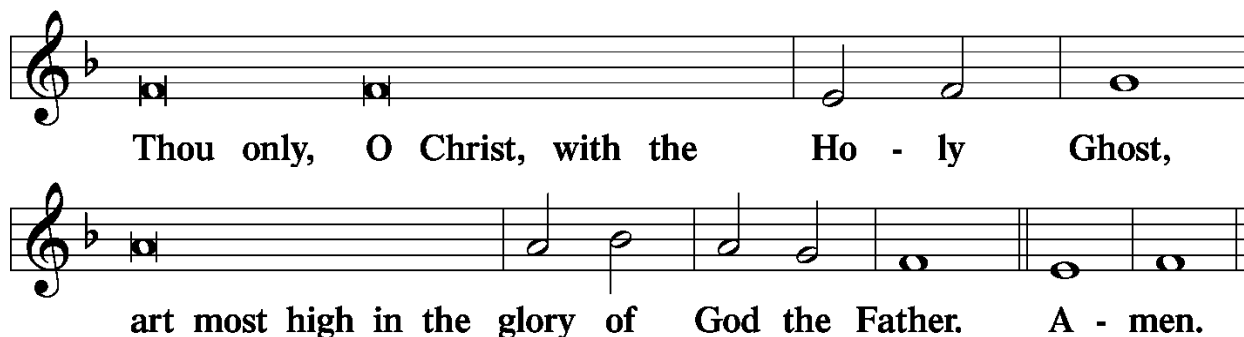


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis



C Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

(Be Seated)

Ministry of Music

Prepare Ye the Way

By Joseph M. Martin © 1994 Timespann Music, Inc.

Jubilate Choir

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord.

O blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God and prepare ye the way.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, hosanna to your King. Hosanna to God in the highest, hosanna to your King.

Sing out to God, hosanna. Sing out to God, hosanna.

Sing out to God and praise the King of kings, Lord of lords. Praise Him!

Sing out to God, hosanna. Sing out to God, hosanna.

Sing out to God and praise the King of kings, Lord of lords. Praise Him! Sing out to God. Sing out to God.

Sing out to God, praise the King of kings, Lord of lords, King of kings, Lord of lords.

Jesus in coming; prepare ye the way. Hosanna, sing hosanna.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord.

O blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God and prepare ye the way!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, hosanna to your King! Hosanna to God in the highest, hosanna to your King.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–8

[1] Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. [2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. [3] A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [4] Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. [5] And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." [6] A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. [7] The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. [8] The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual

(Intoned by Laetare; Psalm 80:1–2)

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.*

Stir up your might and come to | save us!

Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,*

you who lead Joseph | like a flock!

The coming of the Messiah means that the long years of waiting have finally ended. Through the promised Savior God will set things right. The devastation and destruction which sin has caused will be undone and God's purpose for His creation will be restored. For those who by grace have trusted in His promises the Messianic age will be a wondrous time of vindication. The glorious love of God will be demonstrated before all of mankind in the person of Jesus, God's Son, our Savior.

**"... prepare
the way of
the LORD, make
straight in the
desert a highway
for our God."**

Isaiah 40:3, NRSV



Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

[1] This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. [2] Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. [3] But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. [4] I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. [5] Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

As an apostle of Christ, Paul was accountable to the Lord who had called him. His faithfulness to Christ would inevitably bring Paul into ongoing conflict with the world. Nonetheless, the apostle was prepared to endure that conflict as he preached God's Word and waited for the return of his Lord and Master. The same is true of every Christian today. The world must attempt to suppress our witness to the truth of God. But that conflict will end when Jesus returns in power and glory as the Judge of all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C *Thanks be to God.*

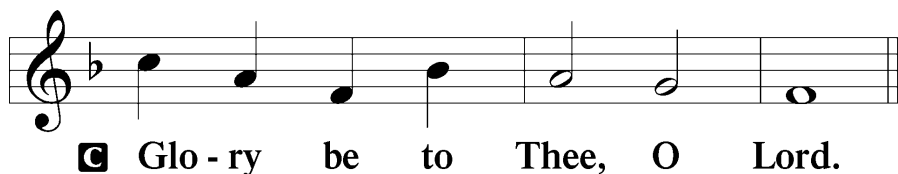
(Stand)

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.



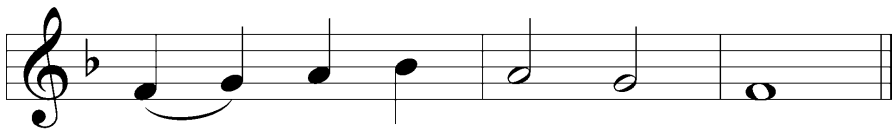
Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 11:2–11

[2] Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3] and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” [4] And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5] 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. [6] And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” [7] 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? [8] What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. [9] What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10] This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ [11] 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.

The Baptist’s expectations of judgement upon apostate Israel did not seem to have been fulfilled by the gentle ministry of Jesus. As he languished in prison, John could not help but wonder about God’s plan. Jesus commended His cousin’s faithfulness and gently reminded him of the prophecies which he himself had proclaimed. Salvation must always come on God’s terms in a manner unexpected by men. We who often share John’s perplexity about the way God works in our own lives may be encouraged by the Lord’s patience with His messenger.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.



Nicene Creed

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary
And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried;
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.*

(Be Seated)

Sermon Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Tune: French, 15th cent. – “Veni Emmanuel”; LSB #357 © 2006 CPH



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

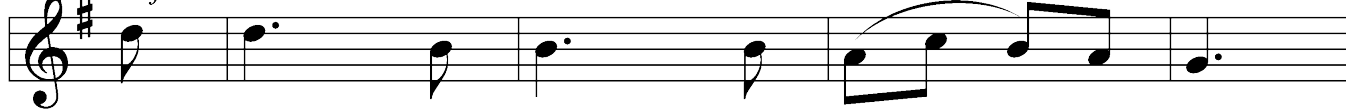


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

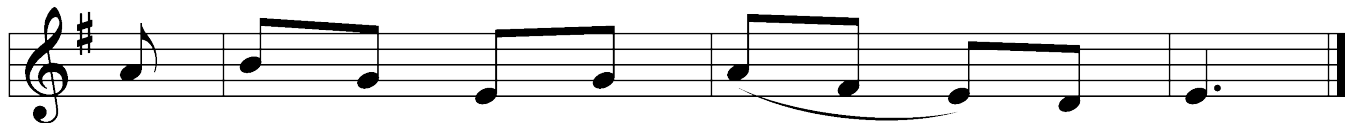


ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand for Text)

Sermon

Isaiah 40:1-8: "Sweet Comfort"

(Stand)

Votum

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering Prayer

(Be Seated)

Offering

Voluntary

Veni Emmanuel

Exultae Brass

Catechism Hymn

Our Father, Who from Heaven Above

Text & Tune: Martin Luther – “Vater Unser”; LSB #766 st. 5 © 2006 CPH



5 Give us this day our dai - ly bread, And let us all be
clothed and fed. Save us from hard-ship, war, and strife; In
plague and fam - ine, spare our life, That we in hon - est peace may
live, To care and greed no en - trance give.

Text: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129; Tune: Public domain

Catechism Lesson

- P** What is the 4th Petition of the Lord's Prayer?
- C** *Give us this day our daily bread.*
- P** What does this mean?
- C** *God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.*
- P** What is meant by daily bread?
- C** *Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.*
- P** A lesson from Psalm 145:15-16 –
- C** *“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.”*

(Stand)

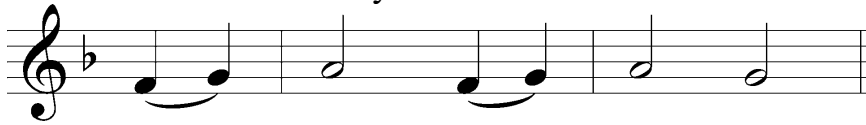
Intercessory Prayer

Preface

Worship Note: The sound of the Zimbelstern announces the invitation that brings the realms of heaven and voices here on earth to sing the great hymn of praise to our Lord. As the pastor reads “therefore with angels and archangels....” the bells peal in festive celebration.

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

(Psalm 136)



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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 praising You and singing:

Sanctus

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

P 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;



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution

(Matthew 26:26-28)

P 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.”

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.”

Pax Domini

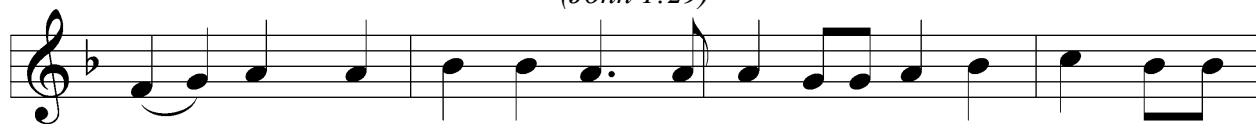
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

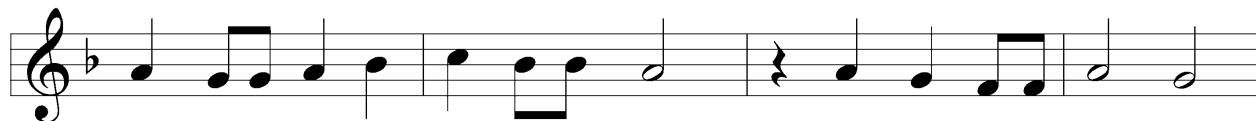
(John 1:29)



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Be Seated)

Distribution

(This congregation observes the Biblical practice of “Closed Communion,” outlined in the Communion Policy Statement in the announcements of the bulletin. If you have not communed with us previously and have not had the opportunity to speak with our Pastor about communion attendance, we respectfully request that you refrain from participating in the Sacrament this morning. Thank you for your kindness.)

Distribution Hymns

Once He Came in Blessing

Text: Johann Horn; Tune: Michael Weisse – “Gottes Sohn Ist Kommen”; LSB #333 © 2006 CPH



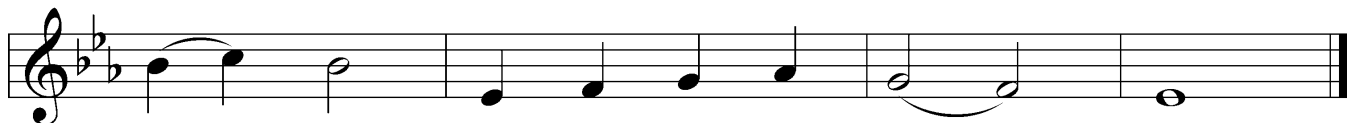
1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129
Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

Ministry of Music

Lord of All Hopefulness

Irish Folk Melody – “Slane”, arr. by Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

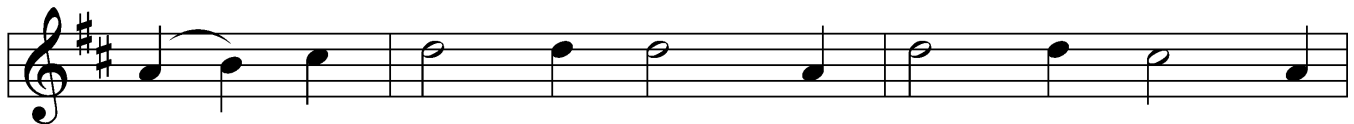
Jeff Armstrong, organ & Ethel Hikal, piano

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Text: Charles Coffin; Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius – “Puer Nobis; LSB #344 © 2006 CPH



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
Choir: 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



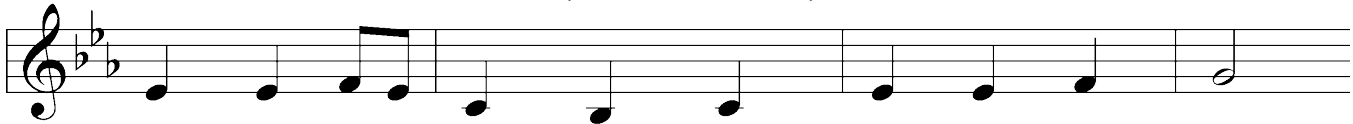
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

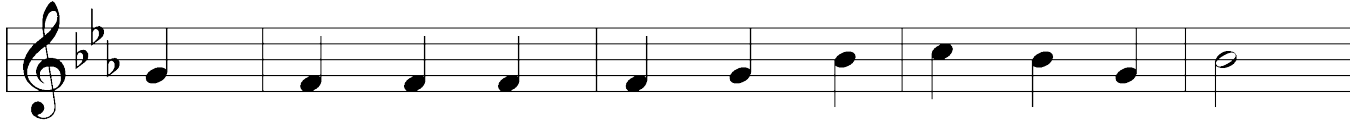
(Be Seated)

Lord of All Hopefulness

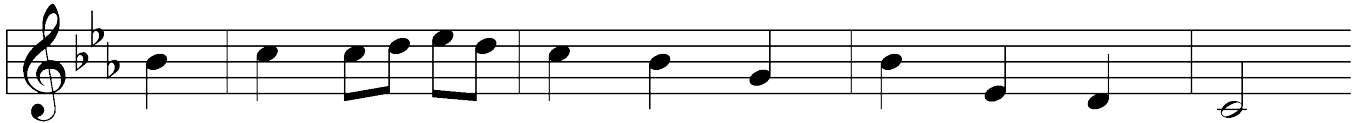
Text: Jan Struther; Tune: Irish – “Slane”; LSB #738 © 2006 CPH



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129
Tune: Public domain



(Stand)

Nunc Dimittis – Song of Simeon

(Luke 2:29–32)



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

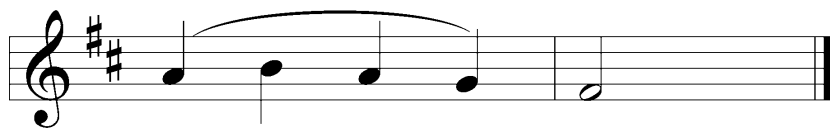


Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.
and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

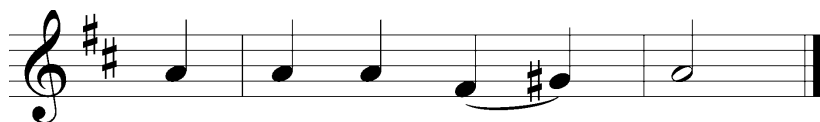
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and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



C A - men.

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

Text: Philip Doddridge; Tune: Thomas Haweis – “Chesterfield”; LSB #349 © 2006 CPH



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Hark the Glad Sound

+++

Soli Deo Gloria!

Acknowledgments:

The Order of Holy Communion from The Lutheran Hymnal © 1941, and Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 CPH. Reprinted with permission. All scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Dr. Laurence L. White, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Armstrong, Minister of Music
Kate Thaelke, Principal
5000 W. Tidwell Rd, Houston, Texas 77091

Church: 713-290-9087 • School: 713-290-8277 • Email: church@osl.cc • Web: www.osl.cc

Welcome!

Volume LXXVIII

December 14, 2025

Number 50

Enter reverently, meditate quietly, worship sincerely, serve Christ faithfully.

It is our heartfelt prayer that all who worships here this day may encounter the love of our Savior. According to His promise, He is here today reaching out to us in love through Word and Sacrament. If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you have found it here so that we may rejoice in serving the Lord together. If we can be of service to you or your family in any way please do not hesitate to ask.

LIFE THOUGHTS/PRAYER: Advent III – “Speak tenderly” in Isaiah 40:1-2 is literally “speak to the heart.” More than nice-sounding words, all of the Good News encapsulated in the first and second coming of Jesus speaks powerfully to those with struggling and burdened hearts. The life issues give us opportunity to speak this Good News to matters of the heart, especially those considered “controversial” and “divisive.” *Prayer: Thank You for touching our hearts with the Good News! Help us share it with all who deal with matters of the heart. Amen.*

ATTENDANCE CARDS – MEMBERS (yellow) & VISITORS (blue), remember to fill out an attendance card listing all in attendance for your family. Please note any changes, otherwise you do not have to fill in the address information each week. It is appreciated if first-time visitors would include their address and phone number. Email and work numbers are helpful for inner-office needs. By filling out a card, your attendance and communing is recorded, and your comments are addressed. It is not necessary to indicate common or individual cup. Place cards in the offering plate or give to an usher on your way out. Thanks!

- *The Cry-Room and the four row spans directly in front of it are reserved for parents with small children. Thank you.*
- *Hearing devices are available from the ushers if you need this assistance.*



HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next on **Christmas Day, December 25 @ 9:30 AM,** and **Sunday, December 28 @ 9:30 AM.** “Let a man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:28

The Word of God teaches that the bread and wine of the Sacrament are the true Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This precious gift of God’s grace is to be received in a sense of reverent awe after careful self-examination. The Bible defines that self-examination as a personal recognition of the real presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Sacrament, and a repentant acknowledgment of my own sinfulness recognizing my absolute dependence upon Christ as the only source of forgiveness for my sin. Scripture further instructs that our participation in Christ’s Body and Blood together is the most profound and powerful way for Christians to acknowledge their unity in the faith. That is to say, when we share in the Body and Blood of Jesus at this altar, we are thereby indicating our common commitment to all of the doctrines of God’s Word as they are taught in this congregation. Because of these Biblical convictions, we respectfully request that visitors, who wish to join us in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ and thereby identify with our confession of Bible truth, speak with one of our pastors before attending the Lord’s Supper.

Get the OSL App...

SERMON VIDEOS are on our app or website at www.OSL.cc (click MEDIA at the top). CDs of sermons are available for \$2 each. You may also request past sermons and special services on your attendance card. Our *Bible Through One Year* plan is also on our app.



Bible Class & Sunday School Options for all:

8:15 AM –

7th- 8th Grade Non-OSL School Students Confirmation: Confirmation students learn together as they develop their faith, learning how to pray, read and study Scripture, and defend their faith. (Pastor Cholak – Youth 4:12 Room)

Genesis: The Beginning of All Things – A study of Creation in Scripture (Pastor White - Bible Class Room)

10:45 AM – Adults

How Should We Worship God? What Kinds of Music? Contemporary Or Traditional? Where Does the Liturgy Come From? Bring Your Questions & Comments... (Pastor White - Bible Class Room)

Enduring Faith: This adult class looks at the lessons the children are learning, with an adult perspective. New members and parents of Sunday School children are encouraged to come. All are welcome. (Bill Prestwood, C102)

Lutheran Confessions: Our Lutheran Confessions were developed out of a genuine concern with false teachings obscuring the glory and merit of our Savior. These unconditional affirmations are as understandable and poignant today as when they were written. Learn their history and development, as well as their relevance in the daily life of a Christian. Through discussion, you will see how others are asking the same questions and how Scripture offers solid, reliable answers. (James Kriegel, C101)

Women's Bible Study – *Altogether Beautiful: A Study of the Song of Songs*, by Heidi Goehmann (published by Concordia Publishing House). Walking through this study, you will learn how beautiful God sees you, but more important, you'll learn to ground your identity in the one who makes you beautiful—Jesus Christ. (Sarah Baughman, Family Room, Church)

Applying Scripture to Current Events: This class for young adults will focus on today's headlines and current events and discuss these topics in light of scripture and how the verses covered each week apply to everyday life. (Adam White, C106)

The Church Militant: God's Work in History: Picking up from the history of the early Church, we continue the history of how God preserved His Word within the medieval Church and brought about the Reformation in the 16th century. Combining history and theology, we will explore the connections of the Church past and present. (Karl Baughman, Cafeteria)

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS AS LISTED – 10:45 AM

High School – 4:12 Youth Room

7th – 8th Grade – C105

6th Grade – C103

5th Grade – C113

3rd – 4th Grade – C116

1st – 2nd Grade – C115

Kindergarten – B110

3 & 4 yrs – B109

18 mos. – 3 yrs – B111

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Mushinski Family in celebration of Thea's birthday; and by Diana & Michael Stachowiak in honor of their 49th anniversary.



Flower Chart is available to sponsor the church flowers for your special occasions! Each flower arrangement is \$45. You will find the flower clipboard on the hutch in the narthex. Remember to write a "W" if you want the flowers, or "S" to send them to the sick. Thank you!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: Remember to log in to your **Breeze** account, and make sure all your contact information is correct – phone numbers, address, email accounts, etc. You can even **add your own PHOTO**. Call the church office if you need help: 713-290-9087.

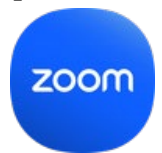
Young Adults Bible Study—Mondays—6PM—OSL Youth Room: This group is young adults (both married and single). We meet on Monday evenings at 6PM in the 4:12 Lounge (the Youth Room). We'll have snacks and refreshments as we gather to study and visit. Please tell your friends!



LIFE WITH GOD on Monday Nights! This is a study of God's Word and the Lutheran Doctrine. Class is held **Mondays**, from **7:00 - 8:30 pm**, in the **Bible Class Room**, with a light meal before class at 6:30 pm. This course runs through December. *Bring a neighbor, a friend, or family!*

ZOOM Option: Go to <https://osl.cc/mondaynight-biblestudy>. For the best experience, *please download the Zoom app* on your phone or computer. Contact Bill Prestwood with any questions: bprestwood@osl.cc or 806-626-5244.

WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – All men are invited on **Wednesday** mornings in the Bible Class Room, at 6:30-7:30am, or join by **ZOOM** through <https://osl.cc/menalive>. Contact Channing Wood at channing@toddyblends.com.



PASTOR WHITE'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:00-12:00, and we are studying *Romans, Chief Part of the New Testament and the Very Purest Gospel*. Food and fellowship provided of course!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS – Join us for the Word on the Web as we study Romans on Thursdays at 6PM. Go to: <https://osl.cc/the-word-on-the-web> to join the study. You need Zoom installed on your phone or computer with microphone and camera to participate.

SHUT-IN MEMBER VISITS – *Do you know of someone that is not able to make it to church and wants a visit?* Please contact Pastor Cholak: 713-290-9087 or scholak@osl.cc.

CART CREW DRIVERS NEEDED! Please consider joining a Cart Crew Team! You must be 16 or older and have a valid driver's license. Please contact the church office 713-290-9087, or Andy Adams aadams@adamsins.com, to add your name to the list.

GREETERS NEEDED to serve the Lord with gladness! Get to know your fellow church family. Call Garry Stuhr for information: 281-704-7129.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in Audio-Visual Ministry: Learn from a "hands on" perspective, call 713-290-9087, leave your name and number, and we will contact you. No experience necessary.

RECYCLE PAPER in the bin which is in the back parking lot to the north.

LET'S SOAR TOGETHER!



Our Savior Lutheran
EAGLE FUND 2025
Annual Fund Campaign



DONATE TODAY!
www.oslschool.org/support-osl/



Men Alive Donuts & Coffee: Donuts are provided between church service and Sunday school and are a gift to all our congregation. We are grateful for Free Will offerings as they help the church by offsetting cost. Christ did not exclude the children from his Grace! Scan this QR Code or Search: menalive@osl.cc



We invite you to join us for Spotlight on Life 2026:

The Battle Still Rages

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Our Savior Lutheran, 5000 W Tidwell, Houston TX 77091

+ + +

Speakers include:

Carol Tobias - *President of National Right to Life*

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske - *Director of Lutherans For Life*

Rev. Robert Paul - *Memorial Lutheran, Houston*

Rev. Michael Salemink - *Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne*

Rev. Laurence White - *Our Savior Lutheran, Houston*

Eva Nitsch & Caroline Klein - *Young adult representatives from Pro-Life Aggies*



HOUSTON
Lutherans For Life

HoustonLFL.org

Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

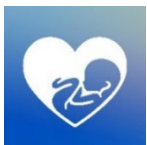
Ephesians 6:16

CHUCK HALL has a large **Koi fish**, 13-16 inches, looking for a new home. Contact him if interested: texaswoodchuckhall@att.net.



The Stitches Fellowship group will take a break until the end of the year and start again in January. *Please be on the lookout for the upcoming January calendar for our next meeting times.*

Calling for Cross-stitchers! If you are interested in helping make the Chrismon ornaments for our Sunday School children, we are looking for stitchers! The patterns are simple and we will provide you with the materials. If interested, please contact Sarah in the church office.



Baby Blanket Ministry: We give out baby blankets weekly to the Blue Bus. Thanks to all those who contribute! Call Ethelene to learn more: 713-542-7534.

Also, HCFL needs part-time Bus drivers! Call Christine: 713-395-1330.

Our Savior Lutheran at Prayer: Subscribe to this short daily devotion and prayer that is published daily during the school year. Devotions are delivered directly to your email inbox, usually in the morning. Use QR code or go to our website: www.osl.cc/oslatprayer



MEASURE OF DEVOTION: Last week Sunday, we had 329 people in attendance (last year 342), 501 viewers online. Our 1st Advent Wednesday, we had 137 (last year 145).

Our Ministry Challenge

Tithes & Offerings for last week	\$ 27,775.00
Tithes & Offerings to date – week 49	\$ 1,795,976.63
Tithes & Offerings needed each week	\$ 42,134.00
Tithes & Offerings needed to date – week 49	\$ 2,064,566.00
Special Contributions to date	\$ 620,190.77

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Malachi 3:10

Those To Serve:

	Today, December 14, at 9:30 AM	Next Week, Sunday, December 21, at 9:30 AM
ELDERS:	Bruce Blake / John Wilbanks / Lanny Moore / Aaron White	Bruce Blake / John Wilbanks / Lanny Moore / Aaron White
USHERS:	Gobrogge Team	Symcox Team
SOUND:	T. Wilbanks	Whiting
CARTS:	Adams Team	Downie Team
ACOLYTES:	Julie Azzi / George Baughman	Aria Ferrarese / Iris Ferrarese
ALTAR GLD:	Clarissa Worthing Team 6	—
COMM. ASST:	Bruce Blake / John Wilbanks / Lanny Moore / Aaron White / Bo Guevara	—
EVANGELISM:	Team 3: Kriegel	Team 4: O'Neill / Schmidt
GREETERS:	TEAM 8: Greenwood / Domann	TEAM 9: Kemnitz / Kunkel
MUSIC:	Jubilate Choir / Exultae Brass / Ethel Hikal	Laudate Women's Choir
VIDEO:	Adam White / Wesley White	Adam White / Wesley White

	Advent Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 PM
ELDERS:	Bruce Blake / John Wilbanks / Lanny Moore / Aaron White
USHERS:	Gobrogge Team
SOUND:	T. Wilbanks
CARTS:	Pampell Team
ACOLYTES:	Max Berry / Sophia Williams / Camryn Winfree
EVANGELISM:	Team 3: Kriegel
GREETERS:	TEAM 10: Schmidt / Stuhr
MUSIC:	Laudate Women's Choir
VIDEO:	Adam White / Wesley White

Advent Supper: Dec 17

Supper @ 5:30pm

Worship @ 7:00pm

Our fellowship suppers are in the Bible Class Room from 5:30-6:30pm.

Bon Appétit will serve:
Spaghetti & meatballs



OSL at a Glance

Sunday, December 14, 2025

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bible Class	8:15am	Bible Class Room
Confirmation Class-YR	8:15am	Youth Room
Communion	9:30am	Church & online
Sunday School	10:45am	
Laudate-Choir Rm	12:00pm	Church Choir Room
LWML Christmas Party-BC	12:00pm	Bible Class Room



Monday, December 15, 2025 ~ Newsletter Deadline

Young Adults Bible Study-YR	6:00pm	Youth Room
Life with God-New Member Class - BC	7:00pm	Bible Class Room

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Christmas Program PS-2	6:00pm	Church
Christmas Program Gr 3-5	7:00pm	Church



Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Men's Bible Study-BC	6:30am	Bible Class Room
Chapel - Sanctuary	8:15am	Sanctuary
Bible Class-BC	10:00am	Bible Class Room
Bulletin Deadline	12:00pm	Church Office
Advent Meal-BC	5:30pm	Bible Class Room
Advent Service	7:00pm	Sanctuary



Thursday, December 18, 2025

Prayer Request printing deadline	3:00pm	Church office
Carillon Ringers	6:15pm	Choir Loft
Elders mtg-BC	7:00pm	Bible Class Room
Jubilate Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00pm	Choir Loft
Word Web Bible Study-Zoom	7:00pm	https://osl.cc/the-word-on-the-web

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Bible Class	8:15am	Bible Class Room
Confirmation Class-YR	8:15am	Youth Room
Matins	9:30am	Church & online
Sunday School	10:45am	
Cantate-Choir Rm	12:00pm	Church Choir Room
Life Team Meeting-YR	12:00pm	Bible Class Room
Rehearsal for Christmas Eve	12:00pm	Sanctuary
Luncheon for Music Ministry	1:00pm	Bible Class Room
Youth 4:12 Christmas Party	5:00pm	Cholak's House

Schedule Your Tithe! Use the OSL app, free in the App Store. No monthly fee; No set up fee; No hidden fees; Lowest processing rates that continue to drop as your giving increases. All credit and debit cards (including AMEX) are processed at 2.3% + .30 cents per transaction. All ACH donations are 1% with no cents. There is also a "GIVE" link at the top of our website: www.OSL.cc



Christmas

COOKIES

Purchase HOMEMADE cookies to support
the OSL WOW Women's Spring Retreat!

Cookies are sold by the dozen for \$15 per dozen.
**Enter how many DOZEN you would like of each type below and
return this form to the church office.**

OR order online!

Order deadline: Sunday, Dec 14



SCAN TO ORDER

- ___ dz. Vanilla Cookies – cut-out cookies decorated with royal icing
- ___ dz. Molasses Crinkles – sugared and flavored with warm spices
- ___ dz. Springerle – a traditional German anise-flavored biscuit
- ___ dz. No-Bake Cookies – an oatmeal and nut fudge cookie
- ___ dz. Pfeffernüsse – a traditional iced German spice cookie
- ___ dz. Pinwheels – a chocolate and peppermint sugar cookie
- ___ dz. ASSORTED – two of each of the above cookies
- ___ dozens x \$15 = \$_____ **Total Due**

Checks payable to OSL with **WOW retreat** in the memo.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Pickup Date: Sunday, Dec 21 by the Bible Classroom

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

W.O.W.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

LADIES, JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING
RETREAT AT THE BEAUTIFUL TRINITY PINES
CONFERENCE CENTER! APRIL 17-19, 2026

Advent & Christmas Events

School Christmas Programs

Tuesday, December 16:

Preschool-2nd @ 6:00 PM • 3rd-5th Grade @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday Advent Service

December 17 @ 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 @ 6:00 PM

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, December 25 @ 9:30 AM

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 31 @ 7:00 PM





Let's Go Caroling!

This year's **Christmas Caroling** is set for **MONDAY, December 22 @ 6:00 PM!**

This is an event for the whole family! We meet at the church, travel together by bus, then come back to church for snacks and fellowship. Bring a snack to share and come with your voices strong and ready to sing. Jeff Armstrong will lead us as we sing to our shut-in members and spread some Christmas cheer!

Poinsettias for Christmas

*The Altar Guild will be decorating our church with poinsettias again this year. Celebrate the joy of our newborn Savior with flowers in memory of loved ones or a special occasion. Your dedication will be printed in a special book that will be handed out at the Christmas services. Below is a form you may use and place in the offering plate, mail to us, or email your request to Jackie at jlowery@osl.cc. Each poinsettia plant is \$15.00. Checks are to be made out to OSL. Poinsettias will be available for pick up after the New Year's Eve Service. **Poinsettia dedication deadline** for the book is **December 15**.*



Order ____ poinsettias @ \$15.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

Name: _____

Dedication: _____
