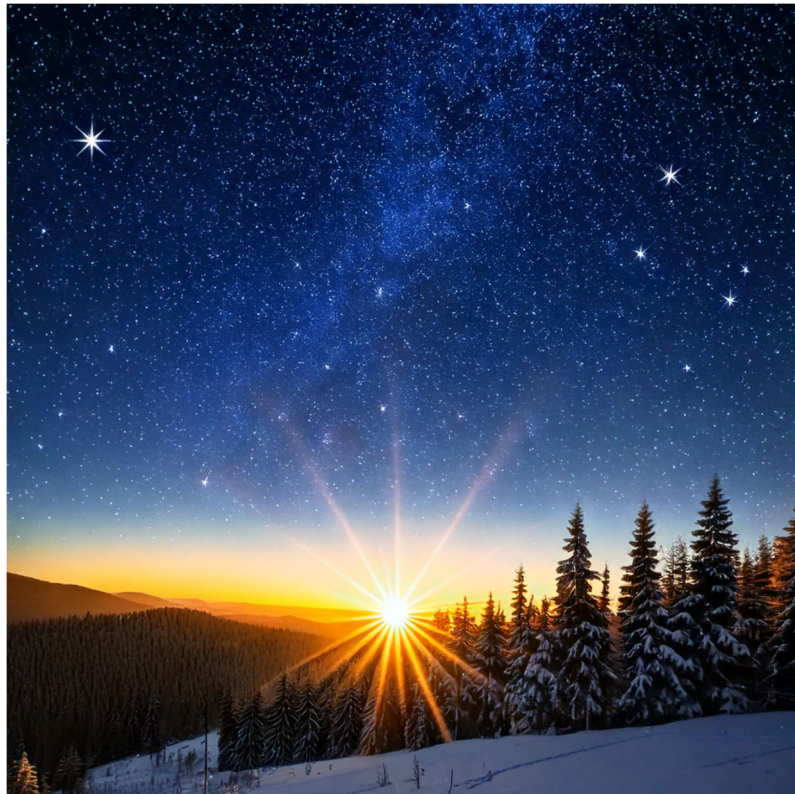


Longest Night

Worship with the Order for Healing

Saturday, December 21st 5:00 PM



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

809 S Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956

our-saviors.org

(920) 725-3956



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

We are glad you are joining us for worship at
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
You are Welcome here!

Please fill out the **Pew Pads** for registering your attendance and communion participation. If you would like a pastoral call or want to join OSLC, please check those boxes and include contact information.

During the **Offering**, the ushers will pass the offering plates. In addition to placing gifts in the plates, this QR code can be used if you would like to give electronically through **Tithe.ly**



We have an open table for **Holy Communion** with two options to receive communion:

- 1) Come forward, at the direction of the ushers, to receive communion by **Intinction**. You will receive a wafer (gluten free available) and then dip it either in the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Children and others not wishing to receive communion may come forward with their hands folded to receive a blessing. Otherwise, come forward with you palms open to receive a wafer.

- 2) Stay in your pew and use the **self-contained communion cups** (wafer on the top and grape juice on the bottom). These are located in the rear of the sanctuary as you walk in.

There are portions of the worship service when the **assembly is invited to stand**. Feel free to sit anytime during worship.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

The congregation gathers with a time for quiet reflection and meditation

Prelude, Welcome & Announcements

Words of Welcome & Call to Worship

L Tonight, on the longest night of the year, we acknowledge that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God. For all those who are carrying heavy loads this time of year, we hope this service will offer solace for the soul.

GATHERING

Greeting

please stand as you are able

L The light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the warmth of God,
and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Song: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

ELW #240



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer

L Creator of the stars of night,
bless the long hours of this night with the warmth of your presence.

C **Come to all who suffer in any way.**

L Grant rest to the weary, freedom to those who are burdened,
and bright hope to those who despair.

C **Strengthen us as we await your coming once again,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

you may be seated

Solo: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. by Mark Hayes

Song: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ELW #272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Prayer

L God of love and understanding,

**C We gather here this evening to confront our pain
in the midst of the world's celebration.**

L Help us know that you are present with us
in all of our moods and feelings and seasons.

**C Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy, and love that you promise
to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. Amen.**

Candle Lighting Litany

L We light four candles tonight in honor of our loved ones.
We light one for our grief, one for our courage,
one for our memories, and one for our love.

R This candle represents our grief.
We own the pain of losing loved ones,
of dreams that go unfulfilled,
of hopes that evaporate in despair.

Leader lights a candle; brief silence follows.

L This candle represents our courage.
It symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow,
to comfort each other,
to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other,
and to dare to hope in the midst of pain.

Reader lights a candle; a brief silence follows.

R This candle represents our memories.
For the times we laughed together, cried together,
were angry with each other or overjoyed with each other.
We light this candle for the memories
of caring and joy we shared together.

Leader lights a candle; a brief silence follows

L This candle represents our love.
The love we have given, and the love we have received.
The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt,
and the love that has been shared in times of joy and sorrow.

Reader lights a candle; a brief silence follows.

R You are invited to come forward to light one of the candles
to remember a loved one who can't be with you this Christmas.
You can also light a candle to express a loss:
of a job, a home, a relationship, your health.

Solo: "The Longest Night of the Year" by Mary Chapin Carpenter

*When all the people have had the opportunity to light candles
the leader continues*

L We light the Christ candle,
remembering that Jesus Christ is always in the center of our lives.
He hears our cries, he knows our hearts and,
in the midst of all our thoughts and emotions,
he offers us hope and healing.

Reader lights the Christ candle.

Prayer

L Let us pray.

**C Comforting God,
wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance.**

L With these candles, help us find your light,
a light that will guide us day by day, step by step,
as we try to live life fully and wholly.

**C We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched by our loved ones.
We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us.
Now comfort us, encourage us, empower us.
Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

R Word of God, word of life. **C Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

please stand as you are able

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

you may be seated

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Rev. Jon Strasman, Pastor

Song: "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

ELW #561

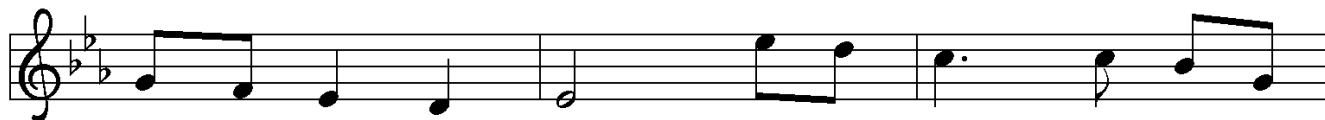
please stand as you are able



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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HEALING

The order for healing is an expression in worship of the church's ministry of healing. Here all who sense the need of God's healing in any aspect of their lives may join in prayer for others and themselves. Here each person may come to receive a word of blessing and prayer. Here each one may also receive a physical gesture of healing: the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the world.



Introduction

P In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates gifts such as these:

God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering,
God's promise of wholeness and peace, and
God's love embodied in the community of faith.

L Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Prayers of the People

L Lord, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

L Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ .

C Amen.

you may be seated

Laying On of Hands

P Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

*Those who wish to receive laying on of hands and anointing
may come forward down the center aisle to kneel or stand at the rail.*

Please return to your pew using the side aisles.

*You are invited to go to the rear of the sanctuary
to light a candle in memory of a loved one
or for someone you are praying for.*

Special Music

Healing Prayer

P Let us pray together:

**C Living God,
through the laying on of hands,
grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.
When we are afraid, give us courage;
when afflicted, give us patience;
when dejected, give us hope;
and when alone, assure us of the support of your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Healing Blessing

P Almighty God,
who is a strong tower to all,
to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey,
be now and evermore your sure defense,
and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation
is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

MEAL

The Offering

*This QR code can be used
to give electronically through **Tithe.ly***



Offering Song: "We Are Waiting for Jesus"

ACS #905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

please stand as you are able

P Let us pray:

**C Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Words of Institution

P 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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.**

Communion

you may be seated

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

Communion Song: "Lamb of God"

ELW Holy Communion Setting 4



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 Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW #257



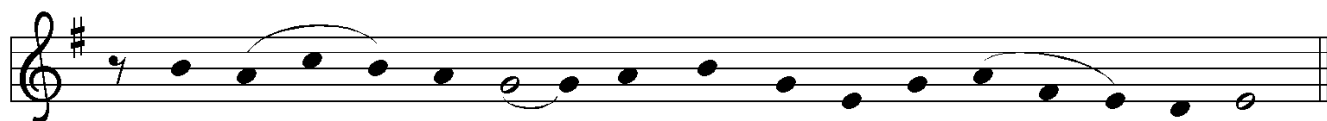
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 O come, O 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. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

Table Blessing

please stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

C Amen

Prayer after Communion

C 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

Blessing

P 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.

C Amen.

Sending Song: "Love Has Come"

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Dismissal

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

You may remain in the Sanctuary for prayer/meditation.

Please be respectful of those wishing to remain in silence.