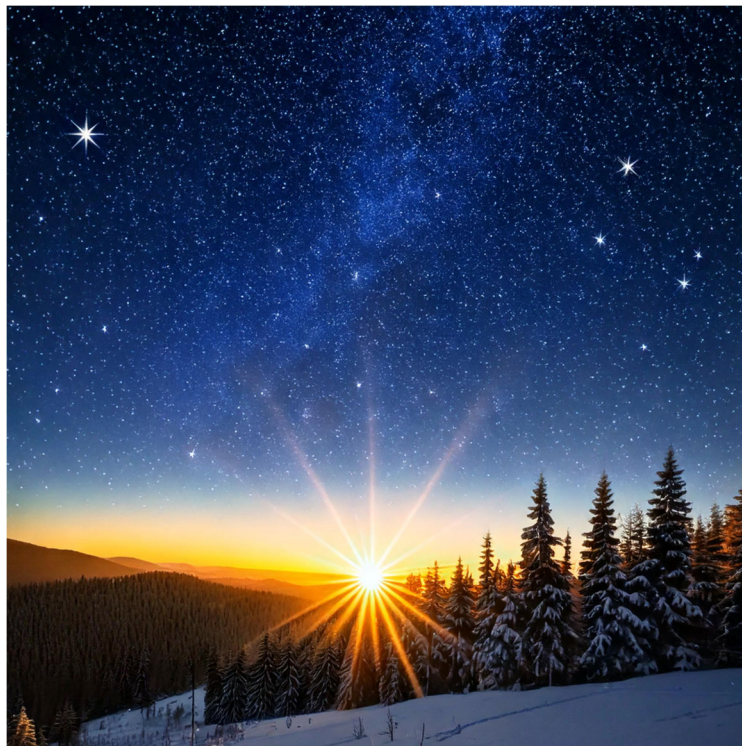


Longest Night

4th Sunday of Advent

Worship with the Order for Healing

Saturday, December 20th 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

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 traditional 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**. **Please Note:** If you give cash in an envelope, please write your name on the envelope if you want credit for it on your giving statement.



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.

Licensing:

Liturgy and readings from sundaysandseasons.com Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006038.
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.
Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715921 and CCLI #880487. All rights reserved.
Music reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship & All Creation Sings *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement*.



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, one of the longest nights 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: "Come Now, O God"



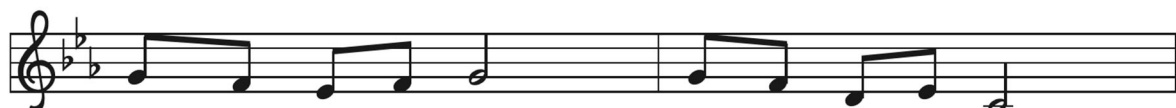
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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”

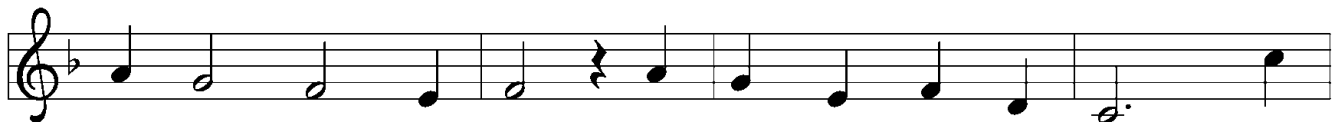
ELW 272



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: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

please stand as you are able

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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: "In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes"

ACS 908

please stand as you are able



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
ra - diant star to light our way. Sum-mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

Text and music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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 God of grace,

C **Hear our prayer.**

L Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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: “You’re Not Alone” by Norah Jones & Leon Michels

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 Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
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 Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Communion Song: "Be Known to Us"

ACS Setting 12

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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-joice! Re-joice!
 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.

- 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. *Refrain*
- 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. *Refrain*
- 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. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

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 God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth,
eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P May God who comes among us,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

Sending Song: "All Earth is Hopeful"

ELW 266



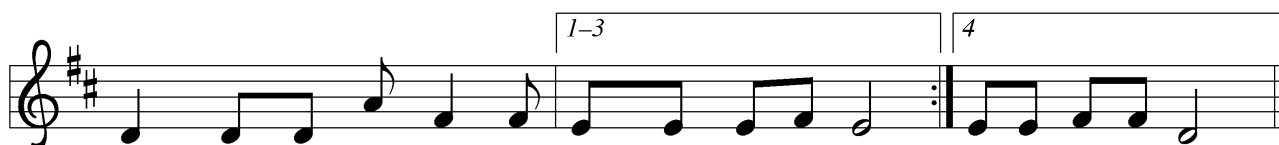
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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.

The candles will be extinguished at this time.