



GATHERING IN COMMUNITY
GROWING IN OUR SAVIOR
GOING OUT TO SHARE HIS LOVE

DECEMBER 14, 2025
10:00AM

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



WELCOME!

Opening Song

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

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

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

A Glory to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,

we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

You that takes away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

You that sits at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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 **Amen.**

Sharing in the Peace

(People may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).)

Worship Songs

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;*

²*it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.*

*The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.*

*They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.*

³*Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.*

⁴*Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!"*

*Behold, your God
 will come with vengeance,
 with the recompense of God.
 He will come and save you."*
⁵*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
 For waters break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
 the unclean shall not pass over it.
 It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
 even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain gladness and joy,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 5:7-11

⁷*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

Vicar Mark Chaffee

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LSB 805)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

C 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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C **Amen.**

Distribution

Communion Hymns: LSB341, LSB342, LSB 347

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

C 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 in 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 **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Preparing for Holy Communion: The Bible teaches us that we need to examine ourselves before coming to the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11: (I Cor11:23-31). Please examine yourself with these four questions.

1. Are you sorry for your sins? (I John 1:8)
2. Do you believe that Jesus is your Savior who forgives all your sins? (I Timothy 1:15)
3. Are you determined to live a holy life? (Ephesians 2:10)
4. Do you believe that Christ's Body and Blood are present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, thus you receive all four elements? (Matthew 26:26-28)

Christmas Gifts: We are supporting our neighbors at Roessleville Elementary School by purchasing Christmas gifts for five children attending Roessleville. A list of requested gifts is on a table in the breezeway. If you are able to purchase one or more of these gifts, please bring the wrapped Christmas gifts to the breezeway or to the Church Office no later than this Tuesday, December 16, so that the gifts may be brought to Roessleville School later this week.

Advent Supper and Vespers: The last Advent Supper and Vespers for this season will be held this coming Wednesday, December 17. Bring a dish to share at the supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come and worship at the Advent Vespers led by one of our Elders beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Our Savior's Singers will share the joy of the Christ Child through familiar Christmas carols with residents of Promenade Assisted Living this coming Friday, December 19th. All are invited to come and sing. Meet at the Promenade, 1228 Western Ave, Albany at 9:45 a.m. this Friday. Contact Al Walck for more details.

Holiday Breakfast: Please join us on Sunday, December 21st at 9 a.m. for a Holiday Breakfast in the Fellowship Room. Please consider bringing a dish to share. Thanks! The Fellowship Team

Poinsettias. Once again we are looking forward to decorating the church at Christmastime with poinsettia plants. Purchasing poinsettias "in honor of" or "in memory of loved ones" is a beautiful way to express your love for family and friends. This year your poinsettias will decorate the altar on Sunday, Dec 21st and following the service, plants may be taken home and delivered. However, you may also choose to leave the poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service and take it with you afterwards. To place your order for a red or white poinsettia (\$10/plant) you may see Lori Dollard or Heidi Lenge in the breezeway after the service **this morning**.

Come Let Us Adore Him: There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve - one at 6 p.m. and the other at midnight to celebrate our Savior's birth. Both services will include special music, candles, lessons and a meditation. Invite others to join in worshipping Christ our Lord.

Return on Christmas Day for a celebratory worship service at 9 a.m.

Night To Shine, a prom for people with disabilities, will be held at Our Savior's on February 13th. We still need buddies to accompany our guests throughout the evening. Sign up as a Night To Shine buddy on our church website (oslalbany.org) and encourage others to volunteer for this unique opportunity to share Jesus' love that evening. You may also consider sponsoring a guest(s) for Night To Shine. The cost is \$60/guest. Donate on line through our church website or use a special offering envelope and designate your gift for Night To Shine.

Starpoint Young Adult Door Offering - The Elders are very pleased to report that last week at the end of the service \$184.00 was contributed to Starpoint Church's Young Adults, with gratitude and appreciation for all their generous help at our Fall Clean-up Day on November 29th. This money will support the Young Adults program at Starpoint Church in Clifton Park. We thank all who donated to make this blessing possible!

Nominations. Voting members of Our Savior's are invited to nominate candidates for Elders and Church Council positions at Our Savior's. Please submit names of potential Elder candidates to Brian Dollard and names of potential members of the Church Council to Heather Baird or Mark Stuart by December 19th. Council positions up for election are: Secretary, Financial Officer, and one Member-at-Large. Do not contact the nominees, but simply give the names to Brian, Heather or Mark. An approved slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation in early January, and elections will be held at a Voters Assembly in late January.

Vicar Mark Chaffee's office hours are 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You may also reach him by cell phone: 518/763-1085 or via email:

mark.chaffee@oursaviors.com

Pastor Patrick Singh is serving as part time vacancy pastor at Our Savior's, providing pastoral care and leadership in cooperation with Vicar Mark. You may contact Pastor Singh by email (patrick204642003@yahoo.com) or by cell phone (917/254-2597) if you wish to talk or schedule a time to meet with him.

SERVERS TODAY

Worship Leaders: Pam Reynolds, Tom Aery

Communion Servers: Travis & Melissa Coon

Pray-ers: Sharon Swint & Toni Cramer

Ushers: Ken Pleat, Brian Dollard, Ike Wallace

PRAYER NEEDS

Healing: Christine Baird, Barbara Bruso, Lynn Currier, Fred Dignon, Kathy Hawley, Phyllis Lubiniecki, Barbara MacGowan, Patty Marshall, Jennifer Noble, George Swint, Eric Unright, Al & Helen Walck, Joan & Walter Weis, Lori & Peter Whitehouse, Dave Wolcott, Tim Zuelsdorf

Sunnyview Rehab: Helen Walck

-Homebound: Inge Glidden

-in Assisted Living: Christine Baird, Marga Hildenbrandt, Lois O'Brien

Prayer for Jennifer Cassel, Spanish teacher and librarian at Our Savior's Christian School.

Bless Jen as she helps her students learn Spanish and also fosters a love for reading through her work in the school library. May all the students at Our Savior's School become effective communicators of the truths found in God's Word.

Prayer for Ministry through Music for the **OLS Singers** as they minister to residents at the Promenade Assisting Living through Christmas songs, shared Scripture and prayers on December 19th.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (21 December 2025)

Isaiah 7:10–17 Romans 1:1–7, Matthew 1:18–25

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that *"the virgin shall conceive and bear a son"* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus *"descended from David according to the flesh"* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called *"Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *"did as the angel of the Lord commanded him"* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Contact us

Church office phone: (518)459-2248

Email – Information@oursaviors.com

Website - oslalbany.org



Support Our Savior's Lutheran Church

To make your offering: Simply scan the QR code



or mail checks directly to the church office at: 63 Mountain View Ave Albany, NY 12205. **Thank you for your support!**

