



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

DECEMBER 21, 2025
10:00AM

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



WELCOME!

Opening Hymn: Brown 545 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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 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 **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 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah – the king of Assyria."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

Pastor Patrick Singh

Prayer of the Church

Offering How Do You Welcome a King

by Mike Harland
Arr. J. Daniel Smithj

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

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 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: Brown 535, Brown 540, Brown 541

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.**

349 Hark the Glad Sound



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: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

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

C Thanks be to God.

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 Eve: We are holding two worship services this Christmas Eve - one at 6 p.m. and the other at 11 p.m. Both are candlelight services and will include special music. Invite family and friends to join you in this celebration of our Savior's birth. Return on **Christmas Day** for a celebratory service at 9 a.m.

Night To Shine, a prom for people with disabilities, will be held at Our Savior's on Feb 13th. This is a unique opportunity to let Jesus' love shine through us to our honored guests and their parents and caregivers. We need volunteers for this event, particularly buddies to accompany our guests. You may register as a NTS volunteer through our church website (oslabany.org). You may also provide financial support for this *Night To Shine* event by sponsoring one or more of our guests, using a special offering envelope or by giving on line through our church website. One generous donor has offered to match any sponsorship gifts up to \$1000.

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:

Organist: Pam Reynolds

Communion Servers: Mark Stuart & Andy Cross

Pray-ers: Brian & Lori Dollard

Ushers: Jim Ryan, Joe Lenge, Teri Zuesldorf

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS (28 December 2025)

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Revelation 14:1-5

Matthew 2:13-18

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children" (Jer. 31:15). Herod rages and sends to kill all boys two years and younger (Matt. 2:16), desperate to destroy the newborn King of kings. The Church remembers these innocent victims as martyrs. They died for the One who came to die for them. This dark commemoration bears witness to the cruelty of sinful men and the world's hatred of Christ, who has sanctified our fragile life even from His conception and birth. But the boy who escaped Bethlehem's bloody streets unscathed went on to face thorns, nails and spear for them and for us. He is the Lamb whose name is written with the Father's name on the foreheads of His baptized saints (Rev. 14:1). By His death, He has redeemed an inheritance for Himself and brought peace at last by His blood. On the fourth day of Christmas, we sing *"a new song"* of the Lamb, of Christ the true martyr, whose death testifies that our redemption is won. We *"follow the Lamb wherever he goes"* (Rev. 14:3, 4), for He will bring our tears to an end.

PRAYER NEEDS

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

Homebound: Inge Glidden

Assisted Living: Christine Baird, Lynn Currier, Marga Hildenbrandt, Lois O'Brien

Prayer for Matthew Sindoni who serves as the physical education instructor for students at Our Savior's Middle School. Pray that Matt is able to encourage his students to demonstrate respect, cooperation and encouragement in all their physical activities and games. May God be glorified in all they do.

Prayer for Sunday School Teachers: Amy Chaffee, Gwen Alexander, Linda Hoffman as they faithfully share the love of Jesus and His Word with their young students on Sunday mornings.

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!

