

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

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March 5, 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY

Order of Worship

The order of worship is set out in this bulletin. The congregation responds in parts marked in bold. Hymns are taken from our hymnal, the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW).

WE GATHER

Centering Music

The ringing of *the Morningstar*

Prelude

Prayer of Confession

We admit our sins

Our forty-day journey through Lent recalls Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Three times, the devil coaxed Jesus to rely on himself instead of on God. Three times, Jesus resisted, trusting God to give him all he needed.

Friends, we are not Jesus. We don't recognize relying on ourselves instead of God as a temptation; we even extol self-reliance as a virtue. Join me in confessing this to God, and asking for compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, I confess
that I struggle to confess.

I want to delight you by doing all the right things.

I don't want to admit that I can't.

To receive your forgiveness,

I must confront my failure.

God, I confess
that I struggle to confess:

**I'm afraid of being a burden to others.
I don't want to need them too much,
so I try not to need them at all.**

God, I confess
that I struggle to confess:
**just like I turn away from my own vulnerability
I turn away from the vulnerable.
I have rejected my weakness
and avoided those who are weak.
I have denied my frailty
and looked down on those who are frail.
I have resisted my dependence
and thought less of those who depend on others.**

God, forgive us,
**because we struggle to forgive ourselves.
We build a wall of self-reliance
that separates us from your love.**

Distribution of Ashes

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus once said,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician."
Jesus didn't come for those who didn't need him:
he came for me and for you
and for everyone who has fallen short.
Feel how Jesus' power is made perfect in our weakness.
In Christ's name, I tell you that you are completely and entirely forgiven.
You are imperfect,
and you are forgiven,
and you are entirely loved.

Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones
not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin,
but as the realization that God already has.
Let us shout with the psalmist:
**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!
Amen.**

Hymn

Lord Throughout These Forty Days

ELW#319

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Saving God, you never forget those who need you. You take the part of the poor, the captive, the bound, and the broken, and call your people to do the same. Pour your Spirit into our hearts and wash away everything that keeps us from knowing one another as kin, so that we may be a watered garden in a thirsting world, answering the needs of every part of your creation. Amen. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-12

1 Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
11 The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-17

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- 5 Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 6 Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- 7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- 13 Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- 14 Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 16 For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.



[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

16 “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

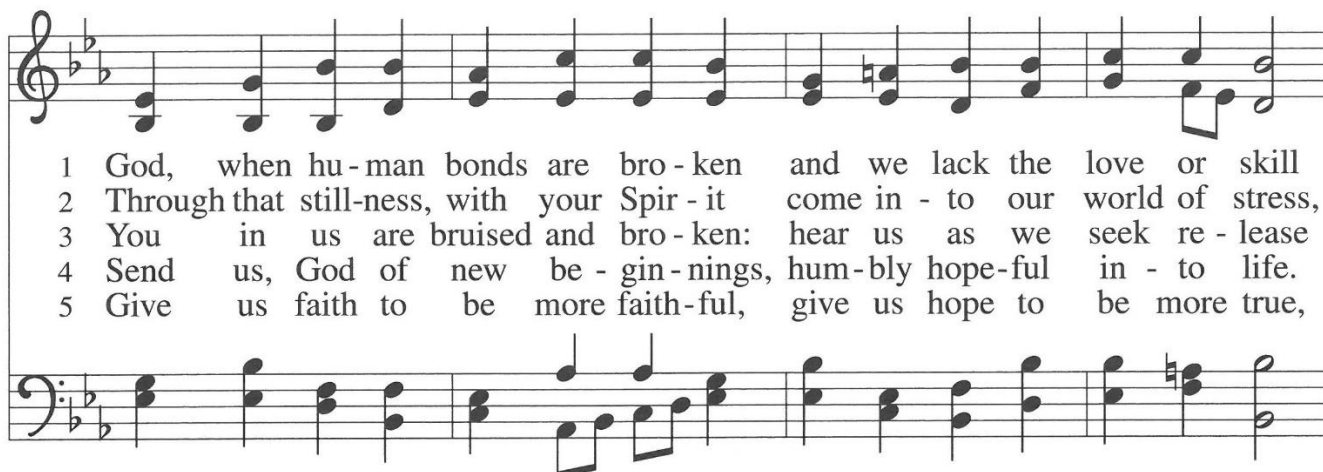
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

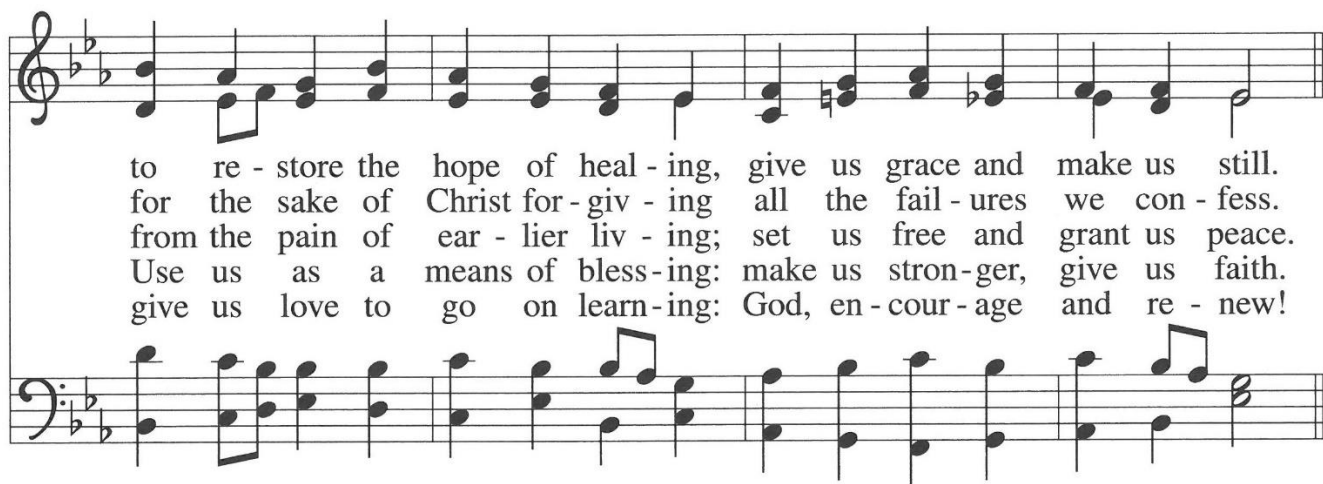
Hymn

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW#603



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless - ing: make us stron - ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain (especially). Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

Offering Prayer

As we prepare to make an offering, we pray:

God, you gave us what we needed to love you today.

Now we offer you a portion of these gifts, a harvest of the love you planted.

Offering

Financial offerings are received in the plates. Please stand as the gifts come forward.

*This QR code links
to our PayPal account
and may be used to make
a one-time gift.*



Musical Offering

Please Stand

Offertory Canticle

Musical notation for the Offertory Canticle, consisting of three staves of music in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er har - vest from the
seeds we've sown, that we may now be fed. Gath - er hopes, dreams, and prayers for the
world you de - sire, and fill our tab - le with your pre - sence with the feast to come.

Prayer of Dedication

God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.

Now bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

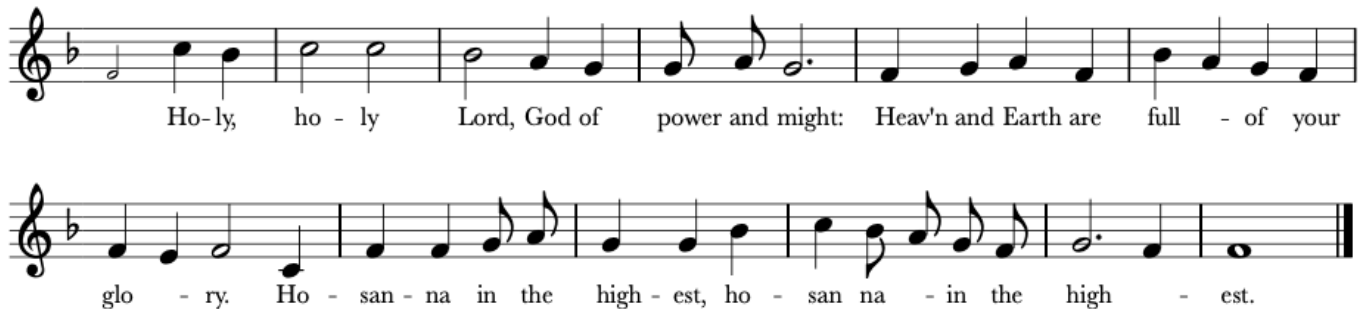
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is not only right, but even needful for us to thank you, God,
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.

You open your hand to satisfy the needs of everything that you have made,
and all of creation sings its thankful praise.

And so we join the echoing song:

Sanctus



Ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might: Heav'n and Earth are full - of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san na - in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God,
brimming with your extravagant love.

In the beginning you created, not because you needed to
but because it delighted you:

**you made the textures of feathers and fur, the fragrance of pine and
saltwater, glinting minerals and sparkling stars, humankind in gorgeous
diversity.**

But we reached for more than what you freely gave.

**We sought to meet our own needs rather than to trust in your abundant
provision.**

Though you sent prophets to teach us compassion, calling us to share our bread
with the hungry and our means with the poor,

we learned to fear scarcity and to seek safety in self-interest.

Still, your faithfulness to us is inexhaustible.

You became like us in Jesus Christ,

whose life magnified the abundance of your grace and the lavishness of your love.

**He saw the richness of a widow's pennies
and the surpassing fineness of a lily's petals
and the towering greatness of a mustard seed
and fed thousands with five loaves and two fish.**

On the night of his arrest,
he gathered his friends for a simple meal and set a feast of love.
He took bread, 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.

And so we remember: **the command to love as he has loved.**
We remember: **the life of God poured out for us like wine.**
We remember: **the resurrection that shattered the power of death.**
We remember: **Christ's ascension into heaven and promise to come again.**

Extravagant God, pour out your Spirit on us
and on this bread and cup.
Let the fragrance of your love fill this house.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our noses with the sweetness of grapes
and the earthiness of wheat.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our hearts as lavish compassion
for the little, the lost, and the least.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Let this bread and cup magnify your prodigal love,
mirroring the heavenly feast that has no end.
Bring us at last to the infinite table
where you have gathered all your holy ones
in the new creation where every tear is wiped away,
and every need has been met in you.
All honor and glory is yours, O God,
who is both Giver and Gift,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Agnus Dei



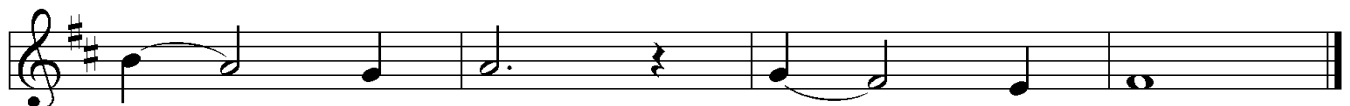
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

Please Sit

The Distribution

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

All are invited to come forward to receive the holy gifts. Those not receiving may come forward for a blessing or remain in the pews in prayer.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen

Post-Communion Sentence

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.
O Jesus, you have fed us
with the bread that has no price,
the precious gift of your own self.
Now send us out like Mary with her perfume,
prepared to give the best we have
to dignify the world you so loved.
Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Blessing

Now may God,
whose prophetic voice still perseveres,
who speaks for the little, the lost, and the least,
whose eye is on the sparrow,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. Amen.
Amen.

Hymn

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

ELW#600



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Charge

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Welcome to Our Saviour

Do you want to live life to its fullest? Do you want to have resources to cope with the challenges of life? Since his disciples first followed him, Jesus' teachings and example have been providing enduring answers for life's most troubling questions. Jesus' life was given for us. His life remains a gift to be received and God's Word through him waits to be heard. Come and see! The Lord is good!

Our Saviour is a safe, friendly, welcoming place for you and your family to hear Good News and find warm, caring community. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, political affiliations, sexual orientations and gender identities or expressions. We invite you to join us in any or all of the activities. Please ask any member for further details. You will find the Order of Worship set out in this bulletin. You will also find a schedule of devotional readings and next Sunday's scripture set out inside the back cover.

HOLY COMMUNION: All are invited to the Lord's Table, as Jesus welcomed all without condition, to commune with Him. You need not be Lutheran or a church member. Young children may receive at their parents' discretion.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Justin Johnson, Pastor

Phill Greenland, Music Minister

LeeAnn McCarthy, Deacon

Sunday School **9:00 am**
Sunday Worship Service **10:00 am**

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon;
Wed, Sat & Sun: by appointment; Thurs & Friday: Pastor's Days Off.

Church Secretary's Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Fri: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Church Office Phone: 914-271-4632 **Pastor's Phone:** 914 863-1601

<http://www.oursaviourcroton.org>

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Our Saviour Your Saviour Our Saviour

