

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

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March 30, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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.**

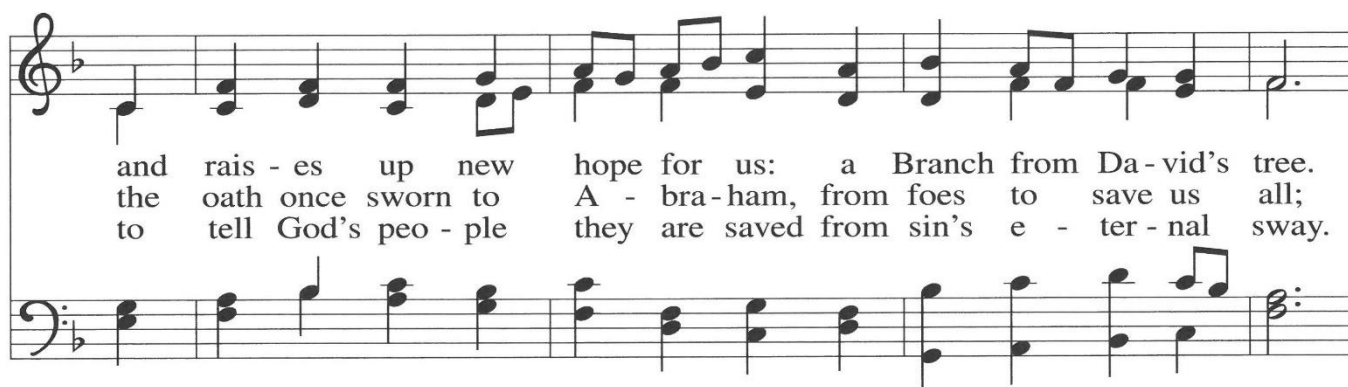
Assurance of Forgiveness

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.

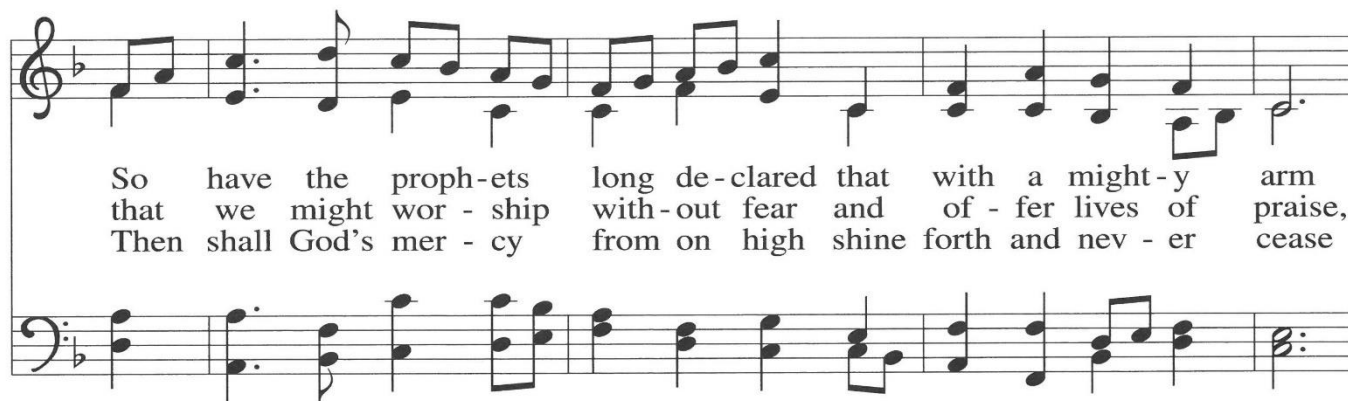
Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones
not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin,
but as the realization that God already has.
Let us shout with the psalmist:
**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!
Amen.**



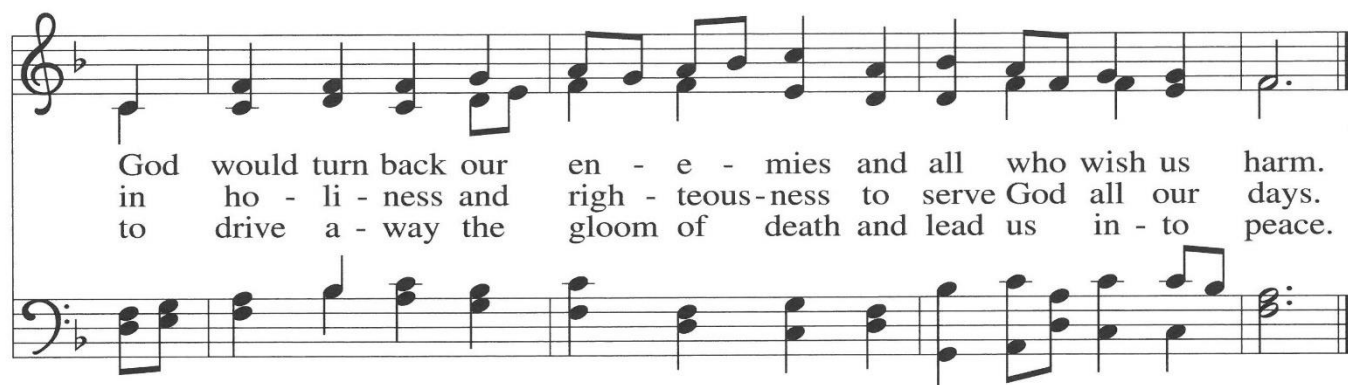
1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

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.

Kyrie



Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy,
Christ - have mer - cy, Christ - have mer - cy, Christ - have mer - cy,
Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy, Lord - have mer - cy,

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Renewing Christ, in you, everything old has passed away, and new things come into being! Ease our suspicion of change and our growing pains; teach us to embrace the transitions that help us and this world reveal you more fully. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

9 The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the
guilt of my sin.

**6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

**10 Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.



1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 11b “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

Sermon

Hymn

Amazing Grace

ELW#779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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: "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." The music is written on a single treble clef staff.

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



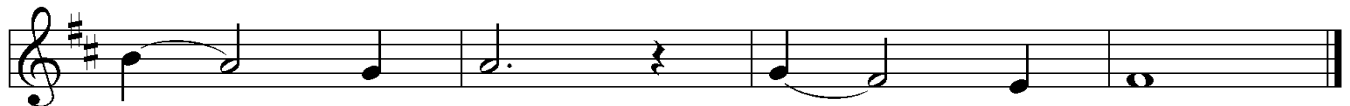
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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,
who revivifies the earth each spring,
who creates us anew in every act of reconciliation,
who changes us from glory into glory,
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.**

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW#666

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Charge

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Worship Service Today

Greeters/UshersTBD
Lector.....Kirsten Berger
Worship Assistant..... Deacon LeeAnn McCarthy
Hospitality.....Croton Caring
Altar Guild.....Jamie Polcari
Offering TellerDianne Carroll



Altar Flowers

**No
Altar Flowers
Donations**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to Croton Caring for hosting this morning's Coffee Hour.

You are invited to a Maundy Thursday Dinner Church this year on April 17 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest Lena Warren will lead us through this unique service. If you are able to bring a dish, let us know by signing up. (Sign-up sheets for Dips, Salads, Main Dish, Dessert & Attendance are on the link table).

Join us in adorning our Easter Altar this year. Easter Flower Order Forms can be found on the narthex and link tables. You can take your flowers home following our Easter Service.

Monday: Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8; Psalm 53.

Tuesday: Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10.

Wednesday: 2 Kings 4:1-7; Psalm 53; Luke 9:10-17.

Thursday: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 126; Philippians 2:19-24.

Friday: Isaiah 43:8-15; Psalm 126; Philippians 2:25-3:1.

Saturday: Exodus 12:21-27; Psalm 126; John 11:45-57.

Fifth Sunday In Lent – April 6, 2025:

**Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8.**

Those With Special Needs & Concerns

Other Concerns of Our Community

PRAYER LIST

John Nurmi
 Arlita Hoyt
 Christine Olszanski
 Kolbe Olszanski
 Deanna Platt
 Bob Riekert
 Catherine Biel
 Jim Murtha
 Jim Befanis

SERVING IN ARMED FORCES

Michael Gabrielsen
 Jack O'Brien
 John Picucci



Bishop Paul Egensteiner and his staff.

For those who would dare to bring peace.

For the President and his administration.

Communities of Faith in & around Croton.

For refugees suffering in camps around the world.

For food to feed all those who hunger.

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

