

# *Our Saviour Lutheran Church*

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

E-mail: [mail@oursaviourcroton.org](mailto:mail@oursaviourcroton.org) Telephone: (914) 271 4632

**April 6, 2025**

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## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

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### 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.**

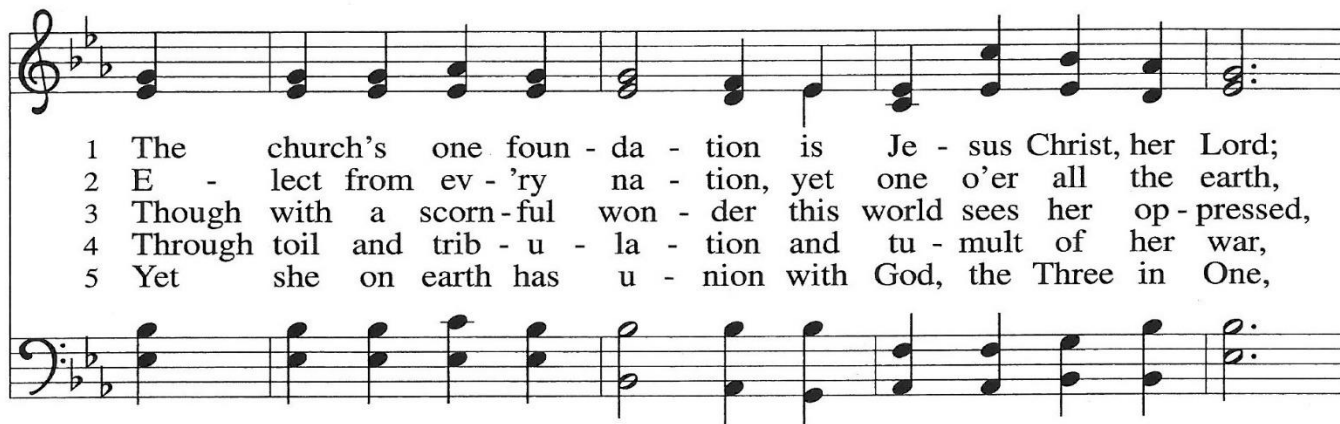
God, I confess  
**that I struggle to confess:  
just like I turn away from my own vulnerability  
I turn away from the vulnerable.  
I have rejected my weakness  
and avoided those who are weak.  
I have denied my frailty  
and looked down on those who are frail.  
I have resisted my dependence  
and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

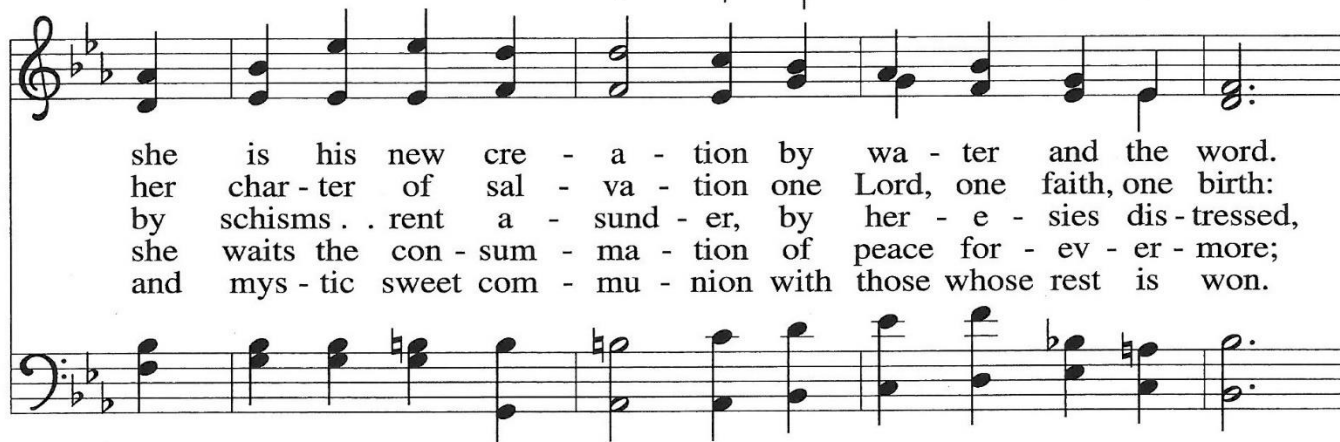
### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

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.

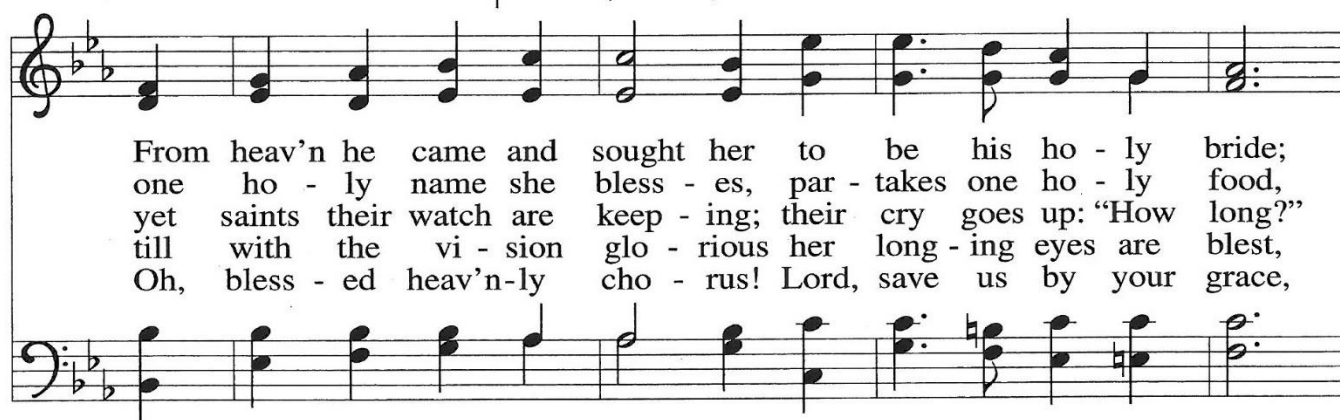
Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones  
not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin,  
but as the realization that God already has.  
Let us shout with the psalmist:  
**My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!  
Amen.**



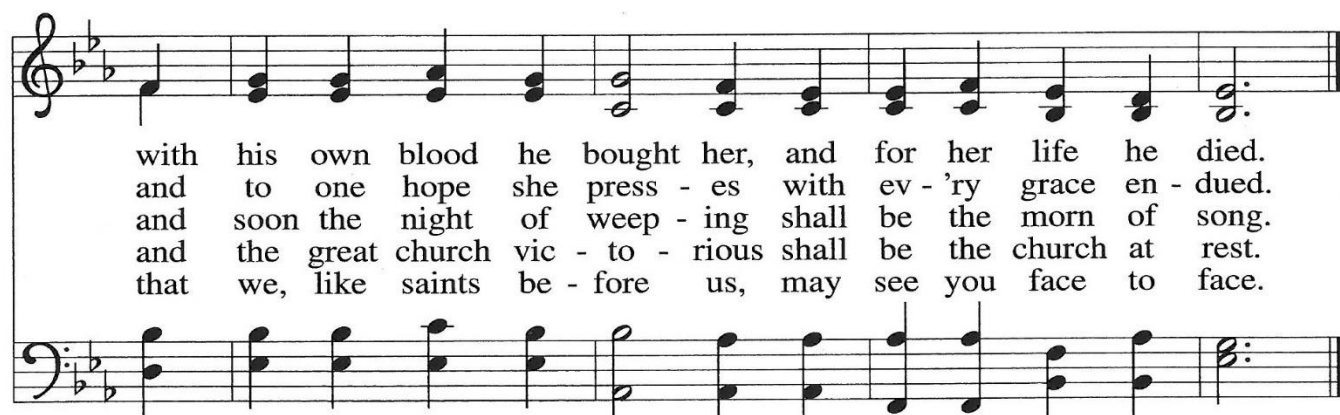
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

## 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.

**Beautiful Savior, your extravagant grace waters our parched souls like rivers in the wilderness. Lead us by Mary's example to turn and offer your grace to beautify and dignify the poor, the ignored, and the oppressed. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Lesson

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

16 Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
17 who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
18 Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
19 I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
20 The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
21 the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm

## Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for  
them."**

3 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

**4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

5 Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

**6 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## Second Reading

## Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## The Holy Gospel

### Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.



1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## Hymn

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW#733

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright,

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.



## **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.***

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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**

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.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving for The Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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**

## WE ARE SENT

### **Blessing**

Now may God,

who brings the wilderness into blossom,

who basks in the fragrance of extravagant love,

who blesses those in mourning with a promise of joy,

bless you and sustain you.

Today God has answered your need,

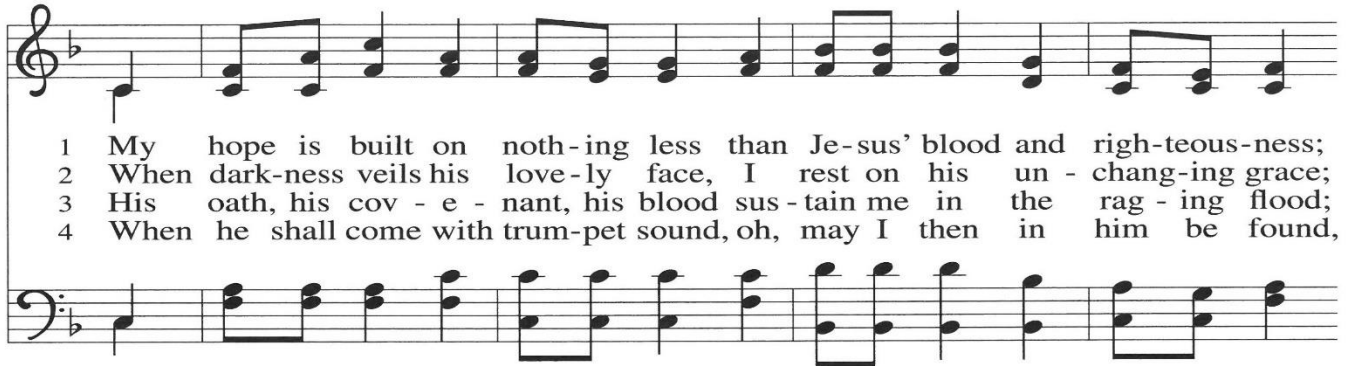
and now the Spirit sends you out

to answer the world's need. **Amen.**

# Hymn

# My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW#596

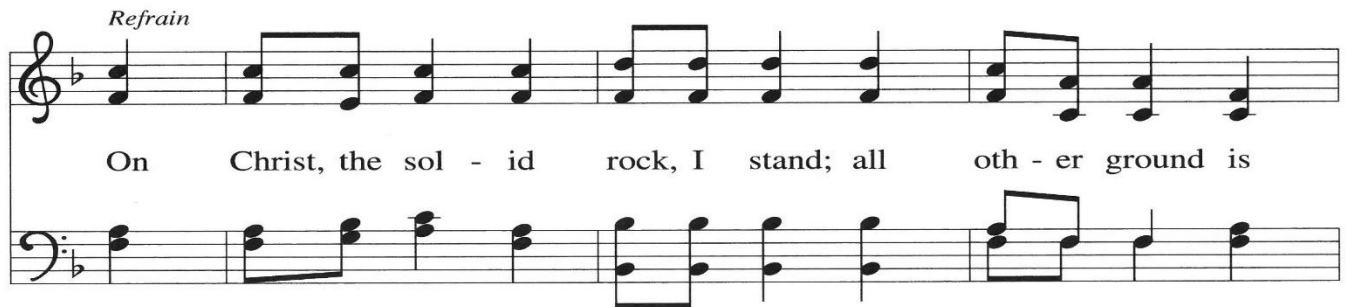


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

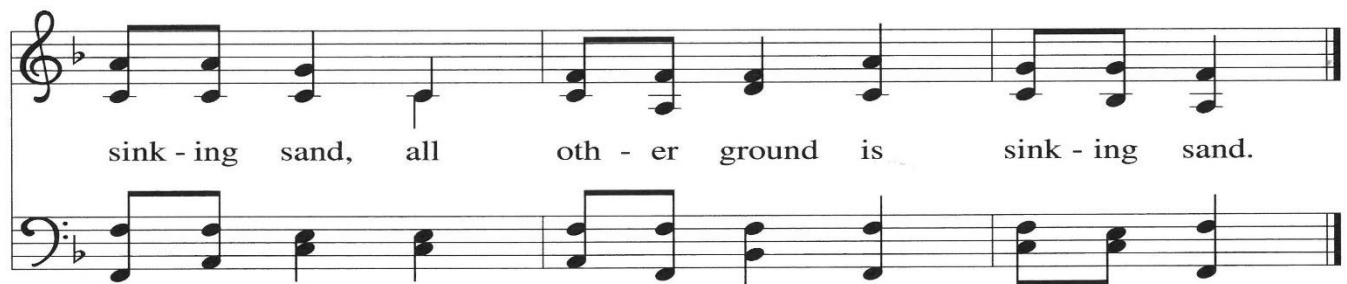


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.  
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

THE SOLID ROCK  
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## Charge

Go in peace. Live in hope.

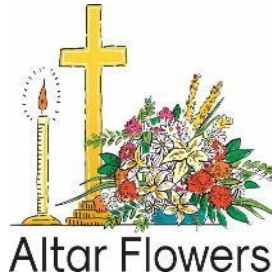
Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

**Worship Service Today**

**Greeters/Ushers** .....TBD  
**Lector**.....TBD  
**Worship Assistant**..... Deacon LeeAnn McCarthy  
**Hospitality**.....TBD  
**Altar Guild**.....Jamie Polcari  
**Offering Teller** .....Dianne Carroll



**No  
Altar Flowers  
Donations**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Deacon Lee Ann will be leading our Service this morning as Pastor Justin is away.**

**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:** Exodus 4:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25; Psalm 20.

**Tuesday:** Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-28.

**Wednesday:** Habakkuk 3:2-15; Psalm 20; Luke 18:231-34.

**Thursday:** Isaiah 53:10-12; Psalm 31:9-16; Hebrews 2:1-9.

**Friday:** Isaiah 54:9-10; Psalm 31:9-16; Hebrews 2:10-18.

**Saturday:** Leviticus 23:1-8; Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 22:1-13.

**Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025:**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;  
Luke 22:14-23:56.**

**Those With Special Needs & Concerns**

**Other Concerns of Our Community**

**PRAYER LIST**

**SERVING IN ARMED FORCES**

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

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

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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.

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**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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