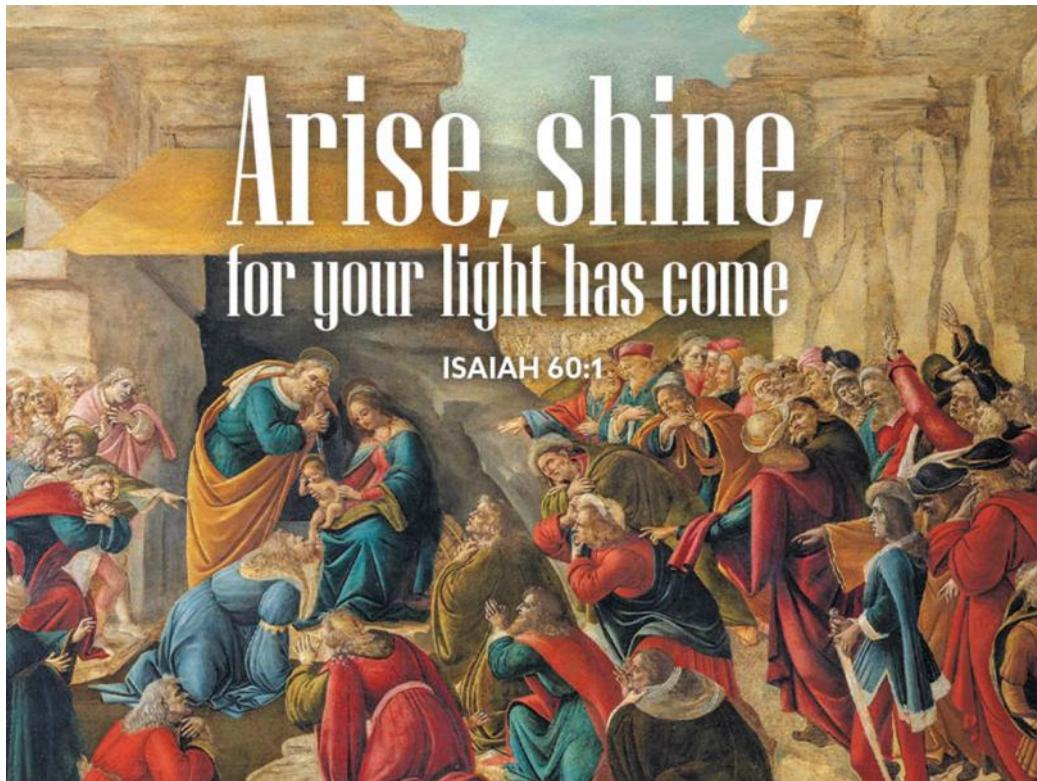


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 4, 2026

*Living Saviour Lutheran Church is a faith community
striving to live and love as Jesus did, eagerly welcoming all
and bringing healing, help, and hope to the world.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY:

Crucifer - **Rhys Plunkett**
Acolyte - **Cole Plunkett**

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**
Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

Deacon Wendy Roberts will be assisting in worship today. She serves as Assistant to the Bishop of the NC Synod. Her ministry areas include call process, candidacy for rostered ministers, and Advanced Lay Ministries. Deacon Wendy grew up attending St. Mark's, Charlotte. After graduating from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, she completed a Chaplain Residency at Atrium Main. In 2011, she was called to Morning Star, Matthews. Wendy has a passion for connecting leaders with unique God-given gifts to fulfilling ministries. She and her husband, Chris, love exploring the outdoors and spending time with their two young adult children and beloved corgi mutt.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Pat Snodgrass to the Glory of God!

THIS WORSHIP FOLDER contains all elements of the worship service. It is designed to encourage your participation. Please read the words in bold print and join in the singing of all hymns. *Italicized words* are instructions.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the sanctuary and down the short hallway.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Parents, you are always welcome to bring your children to worship with you. If you are comfortable and prefer having them in supervised childcare, it is available and is under the very capable and loving supervision of Ms. Carla. The Childcare Room is down the steps as you enter the gathering area outside the sanctuary. Someone will be happy to direct you there.

- **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS** for readers and non-readers are available on the welcome table where the worship folders are located.
- **QUIET BAGS** for use by children during worship have been updated and arranged by age groups. They are located to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and replace it on the hooks when you leave.
- **SPARK FAMILY MAGAZINES** are available on the welcome table and are free for the taking!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES are on page 22.

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The January theme is Making a New You!

Tip#1: Walk with intention. Start the year by adding simple movement to your day. A short walk, whether five minutes or fifteen, helps strengthen the heart, clear the mind, and create space for prayer and reflection. As you walk, thank God for the gift of your body and the ability to move and enjoy nature. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes per week of moderate exercise or walking. That's 30 minutes five days a week. Remember, beginning is more important than doing it perfectly.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

GATHER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings" arr. Raney
(Nancy Mersereau and Don Huff, piano duet)

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING DIALOG

Blessed are you, God of all creation,
Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

You come to us in everything you have created,
in seas and stars, in river and rock;
But now we celebrate the gift of yourself
given to us in a fragile baby;
gurgling, crying, laid in a manger,
sharer of our flesh and blood.

Spoken:

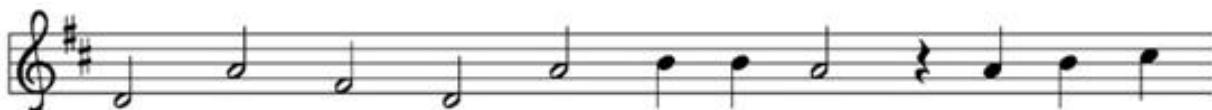
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Send your Holy Spirit among us,
that we might follow the star of your hope,
reflect the bright beams of your grace and truth,
and offer our gifts wherever we find your Son.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

*Please turn to face the processional cross.
As the cross passes your row, please turn to face the altar.*

GATHERING HYMN "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" ELW 308:1,3,4



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

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.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading
of a star.

**Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring
us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**"Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

ELW 290:3

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Wendy Roberts

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY "As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302:1,2,3,5



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and on our lips.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul and his companions in prison. Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved, trafficked and oppressed. Give courage and wisdom for building ways that lead to justice and freedom for all people. We ask that you be with those who are facing any adversity, especially those we name silently or aloud...

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

After exchanging the peace with those near you, please be seated.

WE SHARE THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has gifted us with his love, revealed in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Out of gratitude for this great gift, let us offer our gifts with joyful hearts.

The offering plate is passed. You may also give electronically using the QR code on the back cover.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Carols Around”

Nygard

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with the angels and archangels,
with all the saints in heaven and on earth,
we join in this hymn of unending praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:
heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!
Bless-ed be the com - ing Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

An usher will direct you forward for Communion.

Communion is served at the head of the aisle.

We use wheat wafers, white grape juice and wine. If you need a gluten free wafer, please make that known to the pastor.

For any who desire a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed.

COMMUNION

*The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.*

COMMUNION HYMN

“Lamb of God”



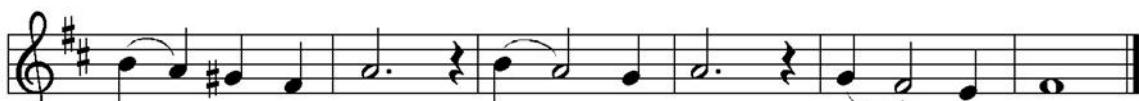
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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.

MUSIC DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

"Bright and Glorious Is The Sky"

ELW 301:1,2,3,4,6

V 1,2 - All V3 - Lower Voices V4 - Higher Voices V6 - All

5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the Word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

>>>Cont'd>>>

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.**

**Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us. Amen.**

SENDING

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR SHELTER MINISTRY AND VOLUNTEERS

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through + Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING SONG**"The First Noel"**

ELW 300:1,2,5



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's -
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Masters in This Hall"

Shows

THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: January 4

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn

Monday: January 5

- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troup 165

Tuesday: January 6

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265

Wednesday: January 7

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday: January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga
- 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You

Friday: January 9

- 5:00 p.m. Cub Scout Overnight Shut In

Saturday: January 10

- 9:00 a.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Workshop
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: January 11

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn

Credits/Acknowledgements

Intercessory Prayers from Sundays and Seasons by permission under Augsburg Liturgies License SAS103467

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23663.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All music and lyrics published in this worship service are printed by permission of the following licenses:

OneLicense #A-725570, LicenSing #612800, CCLI #11242717, Augsburg Fortress #23663.

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!"

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

"Bright and Glorious Is The Sky"

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent.

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
6817 Carmel Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28226
(704) 542-3626

The Reverend Sara Ilderton, Pastor
Don Huff, Director of Music Ministry
Nancy Mersereau, Assistant Musician
Laura Schwab, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hall, Treasurer
Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

QR for donating online:



scan to
join us online

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap the link, and you'll be taken to LSLC's YouTube Channel

