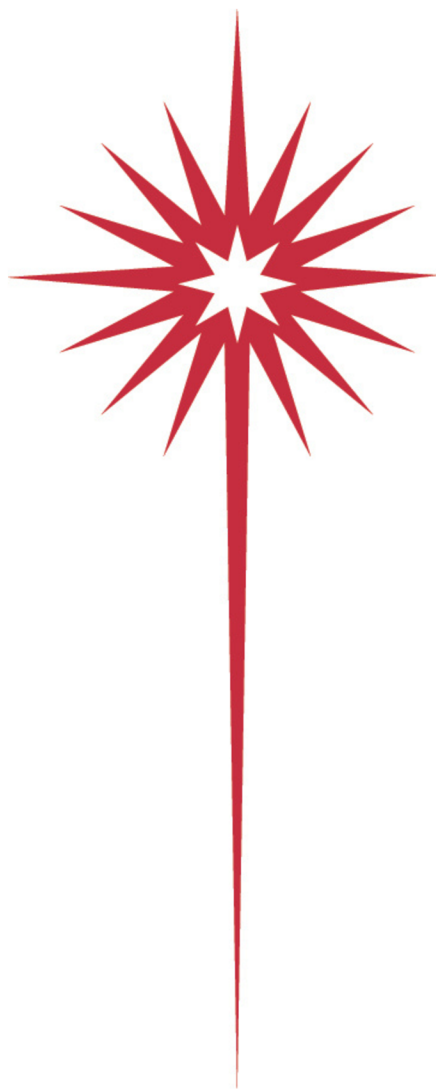


# **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

## **Sunday Worship**

### **December 21, 2025**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**



#### **WELCOME**



**ELCA**

Your presence builds up the body of Christ. We welcome and affirm God's diversity, including all ethnicities, cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, abilities, ages, and life experiences. You are invited to full participation in

our congregation because of who you are. We lament and confess how the Christian Church has withheld Christ's love by misusing the power of institution. We commit to advocating for God's justice and mercy for all of creation, including humans. We commit to anti-racism and other ways of ending systems that cause harm. Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us. Our communion table is Christ's table. You and all people are welcome without exception.



**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

**Newcomers and Visitors** + Newcomers and Visitors + We're glad you're here. Please fill out the green slip in the pew rack and place in the offering plate. You're welcome to share in Holy Communion. Families - we have a small play area up front.

**Nametags** + Nametags help us get to know and remember each other. Please let the ushers know if you need one made for you.

**Expansive Language** + As Lutherans, we teach that "God calls all creation into being and gives people language as a way of responding to God and forming community" (Principles for Worship, Principle L-1). In worship at Our Saviour's, we seek to use expansive language for God and people, sometimes changing or offering alternatives to the printed text.

**Current Liturgy Music** + liturgy is the flow of our worship service - working together as people to praise God. Currently our liturgy music is a mix of Advent music.

**Prayer Requests** Family and friends of Pat DeAnda (mother of Lisa Delaossa); Mary Wildner-Bassett (following the death of her partner, Kathy Huttlinger); prayers of joy for Scott Koenig (for his engagement to Rev. Michael Bush earlier this year); Corky Ronstadt (hospice care), Isobel Barnhill (recovering from a fall), Mary Neff (hospice care), Schatzi Taylor (in a rehabilitation center following a fall and diagnosis), and those at home and in care facilities.

Our Extended Friends & Family: Pat (mother of Lisa Delaossa); Lia (granddaughter of Angie Grandison), Beverly (Mother of Hildi Williams), David (Son of Geoff and Suzy Swann); Jeanne (Cousin of Alan Bales); Barbara (sister-in-law of Kenith Ijams); Peggy (sister of Bonnie Phelps); Josh, Melissa, Mary Ann, and Libby (friends of Chris and Theda Doak); Megan (niece of Chris and Theda Doak); Sandy and Doug, Sally, Ashley, and Kamri (friends of Kathy DeVinney); Grant and Shirley (brother and sister-in-law of Theda Doak); John (son of Martha Neff Stum and Paul Stum); Sam; Eleanor (mother-in-law of Kris Sanchez); Daniel (neighbor's son of Gloria Schmidt); Rich (cousin-in-law of Jennifer Strand) Misty (friend of Schatzi Taylor) Will (nephew of Chris and Theda Doak); Leaticia, Azogan, Meivis, Sidibe, Bintou, Zinsou, and Mabel (friends of Rachel Starner); Pat (freind of Suzanne Hesh).

Names will remain on the list for three weeks, unless requested for longer.



## Today's Theme

"Give me your hand" might be counter to how we usually respond to fear, but what if fear can result in connection instead of isolation? Joseph moves through his fears of rejection and shame in order to stand in solidarity with Mary, shielding her from harm. Their bond makes them each stronger. We don't live out our callings in isolation—our communal flourishing depends on each person stepping into their calling despite their fear. How can we offer support to one another? Where can we reach out when fear makes us feel isolated? When do we need to accept an outstretched hand? And how can those with power and privilege, like Joseph, stand in solidarity with people whose lives are at risk?

# December 21, 2025

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

\*An asterisk indicates the congregation should stand in body and/or spirit.  
Congregation's speaking and singing parts are in bold font.

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** *O Holy Night* by Adolph Adam arranged by Donald Allured

Bell Choir

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*Sung by Cantor*

LeDoux Family

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come.  
Free us from sin through your true grace.  
That you may be born in us this days a-new.  
Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come.*

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come.  
Help us prepare the way of the Lord.  
Let your face shine and enlighten our lives.*

*Stir up your power, stir up your power.  
Stir up the wills of your faithful ones.  
Open our ears to the prophets' words.  
That we may bring light to the darkness on earth.*

*Stir up your power, stir up your power.  
Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come.  
Strengthen our hearts that we may know,  
The redeeming love that has come down to earth.*

### ADVENT PRAYER

#### \***CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity: Creator, Christ, and Spirit;  
the One God in whom we live and move and have our being;  
the One God whose compassion and grace bestow life and hope.  
**Amen.**

Let us now confess our need for God.

Gracious God

**Hear us as we come to you, as those created in your image.**

**We confess our sin, in words and actions, or the lack thereof,  
When we have fallen short of your good purposes for our lives.**

**We confess our need for your forgiveness.**

**Yet confession of our need for you exceeds forgiveness alone.**

**We confess our need for your presence in our lives:**

**In times when we feel alone, in moments when we feel inadequate.**

**In times when fear reigns, and hope wanes.**

**We confess our need for you to come among us, to dwell within us,**

**To empower us to live in your light.**

**All this we confess, all this we pray,**

**In the name of Jesus the Christ who came, and who still comes.**

**Amen.**

God's assurance comes in Christ's grace that forgives us.

God's assurance comes in Spirit's Presence who accompanies us.

God's assurance comes in Holy Love that will not cease to seek our good.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GREETING**

The grace of 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**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 41:5-10

<sup>5</sup> The coastlands have seen and are afraid;  
the ends of the earth tremble;  
they have drawn near and come.

<sup>6</sup> Each one helps the other,  
saying to one another, "Take courage!"

<sup>7</sup> The artisan encourages the goldsmith,  
and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil,  
saying of the soldering, "It is good,"  
and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.

<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, my servant,  
Jacob, whom I have chosen,

the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

<sup>9</sup> you whom I took from the ends of the earth  
and called from its farthest corners,  
saying to you, "You are my servant;

I have chosen you and not cast you off";

<sup>10</sup> do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you; I will help you;  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** From the song *My Song in Stillness Waits*

*Cantor sings once, then congregation repeats.*





## **\*Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of Jesus Christ. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW #552 Blessed Be The God of Israel, p. 9

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The assisting minister leads the prayers.  
...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

...Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

## **\*EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

**OFFERING** *Sing We Now of Christmas* arranged by Kris Anthony

Bell Choir

**\*OFFERING SONG** To the tune of ELW #244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers v.4

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

In the night...

...Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love.

...And as you do, we will join our voices, and using our own words, pray the way Jesus taught us,  
Saying . . .

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

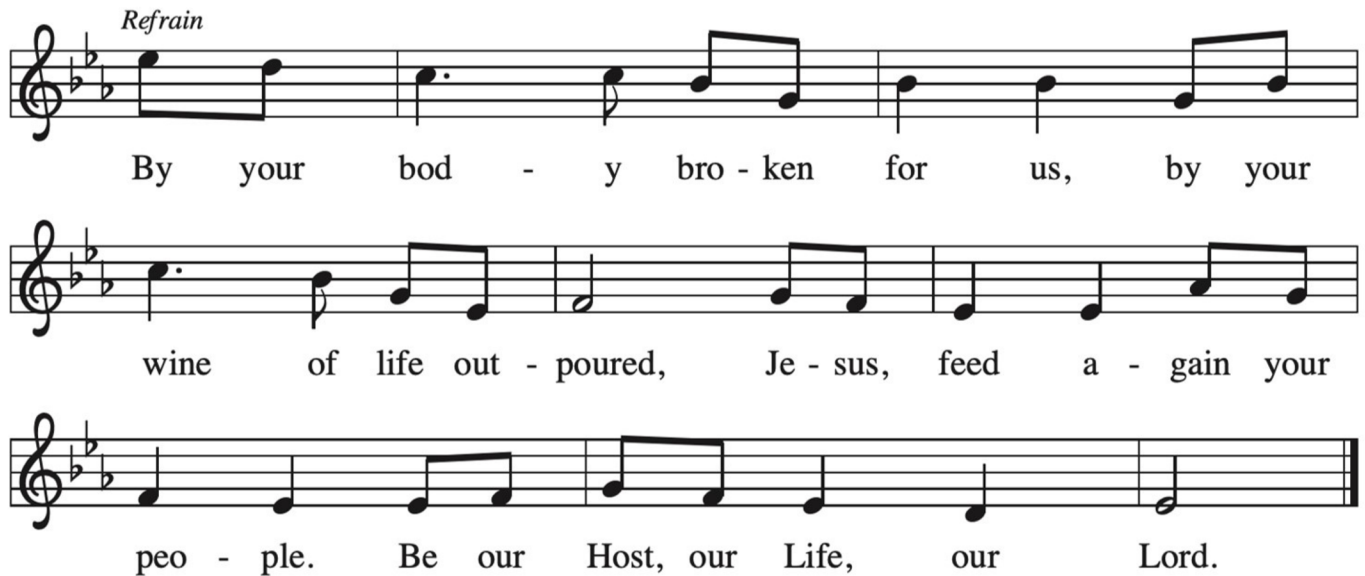
## COMMUNION

Come to this Table of mercy. Become what you receive.

*This is Christ's table. You and all are welcome, without exception. If you prefer a blessing only, cross your arms over your heart. Gluten free wafers available by request. The wine is red; grape juice is clear. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to your pew.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC Refrain from ACS #966 Loaves Are Broken, Words Are Spoken

*Refrain*



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your  
wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your  
peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

## Communion Hymns

ELW #267 Joy to the World  
ELW #652 Built on a Rock

## SENDING PRAYER

## SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BLESSING

## \*SENDING HYMN

ELW # 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People, p. 10

*Turn to follow the cross as it passes.*

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you! **Thanks be to God.**

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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# Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
 oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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## Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.

To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.



## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

During Advent, we intentionally slow down some of our parish activities to make space for this season of preparation and anticipation. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays for our midweek Advent service - a special time of reflection during the worldly rush of this time of year. We have paused some of our regular gatherings (Centering Prayer, Pray Without Ceasing, Luke Book Study) until January.

**Ongoing activities that are open to all - season worshippers, please join us!**

### Faith Formation

Tuesdays at 7:00 AM (AB) - Men's Community Bible Study (lay led)  
Tuesdays at 11:00 AM (Patio Room) - Come & See Bible Study (pastor led)  
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM (AB) - Open Bible Study (lay led)

### Music Ministry

Seasonal worshippers and newcomers are welcome to join our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. Chancel Choir rehearses Thursdays at 6:30 PM (talk to Aysen). Bell Choir rehearses Mondays at 6:30 PM (talk to Kathie Miller).



### Giving Thanks

Thank you to all who have turned in your Statement of Intent for next year. Our goal is to have 70 households complete a Statement of Intent - we have already received 58! If you have not yet turned yours in, you can place it in the offering plate today or mail it to the parish office. You can also complete it on our website (go to About Us/Statement of Intent). Completing a Statement of Intent helps you intentionally consider your giving and helps our congregation plan for growth and sustainability.



### Recycling Program

Our plastic program is on hold for now. Please recycle #1, #2, and #5 in your own blue bin. We hope to resume when we can provide more training and have more volunteer support. Thank you to all who have helped support this program!

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

12/21/2025

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Amalia Vagts
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Pam Hardman
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Bonnie Phelps, Patty Sirls
<b>Acolyte</b>	Bonnie Phelps
<b>Advent Candle</b>	LeDoux Family
<b>Keyboard</b>	Betsy Dunlap
<b>Cantor</b>	Jennifer Strand
<b>Music</b>	Bell Choir
<b>Usher</b>	Scott Koenig, Diane Siefkes
<b>Greeter</b>	Mary and Asher Havenhill
<b>Cross Bearer</b>	Asher Havenhill
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Jennifer Strand
<b>Treats</b>	Mary Havenhill
<b>Tech Team</b>	Pflibsen/Bustamante
<b>Scripture Background</b>	John Indermark

## THOSE SERVING SUNDAY

12/28/2025

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Amalia Vagts
<b>Reflections</b>	Paula Miller, Sharon Reinbott
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Linda Zizka
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Bonnie Phelps, Jennifer Strand, Deacon Wendi Van Beek
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jennifer Strand
<b>Keyboard</b>	Betsy Dunlap
<b>Usher</b>	Patty Sirls, Hildi Williams
<b>Greeter</b>	Fred and Donna Hudson
<b>Cross Bearer</b>	Jennifer Strand
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Ron and Nancy Rude
<b>Treats</b>	Vagts Family
<b>Tech Team</b>	Pflibsen/Bustamante
<b>Scripture Background</b>	John Indermark

## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1200 N. Campbell Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

**Phone:** (520) 327-6521

**Website:** [lutherantucson.org](http://lutherantucson.org)

**E-Mail:** [oslc@lutherantucson.org](mailto:oslc@lutherantucson.org)

## Sunday Worship Times

9:00 - Sanctuary

Coffee following

## Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday**

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Ministry Team

Rev. Amalia Vagts (ex 1004)  
[pastoramalia@lutherantucson.org](mailto:pastoramalia@lutherantucson.org)

Michele Ruttinger  
Parish Administrator  
[Michele@lutherantucson.org](mailto:Michele@lutherantucson.org)

Dr. Aysen Millioğulları  
Music Director  
[Aysen@lutherantucson.org](mailto:Aysen@lutherantucson.org)

Betsy Dunlap  
Interim Collaborative Musician

David Zezulka  
Interim Campus Caretaker

## Lutheran Campus Ministry

Deacon Wendi Van Beek  
Interim Director  
[wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com](mailto:wendi.lcmuofa@gmail.com)  
[www.lcmuofa.org](http://www.lcmuofa.org)  
520-771-9742 (LCM Office)

## Online Offering

We have partnered with the ELCA and Tithely to offer secure online giving. Scan the image below using your smart phone to make your offering. Or, contact the church office to set up regular online giving.

