

# Lessons and Carols 2024



**Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church**  
Sunday, December 22, 2024 - 6:30 PM



Our Saviour's Atonement  
Lutheran Church

178 Bennett Avenue, New York, NY 10040

Pastor John Flack

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**Our Saviour's Atonement** is an ELCA<sup>†</sup> Lutheran congregation of people from many different faith backgrounds. We have found strength for our daily lives in a community where questions are welcome and the stories of faith are passed on from generation to generation.

<sup>†</sup>ELCA: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

### **Every person is welcome here.**

We welcome and support the participation of *all* God's children in the fellowship of Christ.

OSA is a **Sanctuary** congregation, publicly declaring support for immigrants and refugees as a matter of faith.

OSA is a **Reconciled in Christ** congregation, actively welcoming and supporting the participation of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members.

Racism and bias have no place in our community. As followers of Jesus, we renounce it and work against it.

### **We worship at 11 AM in person and on Zoom.**

### **During the summer we worship at 10 AM in person and on Zoom.**

Please sign our guest book with your name, address and/or e-mail so that we can add you to our mailing list. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a member of Our Saviour's Atonement.

We are always happy to pray with you. If you need spiritual counsel, contact Pastor John.

We also invite you to participate in the **Cornerstone Center** community programs happening every day in our building.

OSA's Council members are Tony Alms (Secretary), Andy Beck (President), Johanna Jones Gartland, Laura Pfortmiller, Diane Rode Schneck, Greg Smith (Vice President), Hiedi Washington, David Zimmerman and Pastor John Flack. Jerome Olaloye is our Treasurer. Council members serve a three-year term, with new members elected by the congregation each year in January. Council meets the second Sunday of every month.

# The Book of Luke: Lessons and Carols

*Most musical selections for this evening's service are movements from the work *Illuminare* by Elaine Hagenberg. The texts by religious writers and poets throughout the centuries are all based on the contrasts of Light & Dark, a universal theme brought to the forefront in the Advent and Christmas season. Individual movements will be listed, along with the writers of the texts.*

## WELCOME

P: In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sin,  
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.

P: And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.

All: Amen.

*Please sit.*

## ANTHEM

*Cantique de Jean Racine*

Gabriel Faure

## FIRST READING

**Luke 1:5-25**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

**HYMN**

*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.

## **SECOND READING**

**Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

## **MUSIC**

*Caritas* from *Illuminare*

Text by Hildegard von Bingen

## **THIRD READING**

**Luke 1:39-56**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said...

## HYMN

*Magnificat*

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-joic-es in



God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor on his low-ly ser-vant.



From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed.



The Al-might-y has done great things for me, and ho-ly is his name.



He has mer-cy on those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the



proud in their con-cept. He has cast down the might-y from their thrones,



and has lift-ed up the low-ly. He has filled the



hun-gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a-way emp-ty.



He has come to the help of his ser- vant Is - ra - el,  
 for he has re- mem-bered his prom- ise of mer- cy, the prom- ise he  
 made to our fa- thers, to A- bra- ham and his chil- dren for- ev - er.  
 Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be- gin-ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

#### FOURTH READING

Luke 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
 for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
 He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
 in the house of his servant David,  
 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
 and has remembered his holy covenant,  
 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
 to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
 before him all our days.



And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

## MUSIC

*Illuminare* from *Illuminare*

Text from Cantic of Zechariah, Luke 1

## FIFTH READING

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## REFLECTION

The Rev. John Flack



# HYMN

## *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred.  
sweet new - born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed:  
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me;  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me;



but there is room and wel - come there for me.  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me.  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008  
Music: MANGER SONG, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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# OFFERTORY

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# ANTHEM

*Nox (opening) from *Illuminare**

Text by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious God, you satisfy our hunger and our thirst. You raise up the lowly and bring peace to the world. You come to us as a child and with the wounded hands of a crucified Savior. Take these gifts, and all that we are, and use them for the work of your good kingdom.

**C: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

*(The pastor will give light to the acolytes; they in turn give light to the first worshiper in each pew, who passes it on. Please hold the lighted candle upright and tip only the unlighted candle for the light. Please guard the flame when near small children.)*

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, that your Son shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome him. Let the light of your love shine in us, that we may also shine with you in the dark places of the world.

## ANTHEM

*Munera Pacis from Illuminare*

Text by Saint Gregory, John 14:27

## PRAYERS

A: Jesus, you come to announce Good News to the poor:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

A: Jesus, you come to reveal to us the joy of forgiveness:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

A: Jesus, you show your love to the excluded:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

A: Jesus, you send us to proclaim your Gospel in every place:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

A: Jesus, you keep alive the hope of your church:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

A: Jesus, you come to dwell in our midst:

**All: We bless your holy name.**

HYMN

*Silent Night*

1st v. all sing - 2nd v. OSA Choir - 3rd v. all sing

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## **CONCLUSION**

P: We wait for your loving kindness, O God.

**All: In the midst of your temple.**

P: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

**All: And all flesh shall see it together.**

P: Show us your mercy, O Lord

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you,  
Scatter the darkness from your path,  
And make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory,  
And the blessing of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## **CLOSING CAROL**

*Splendor from Illuminare*

Text by Saint Ambrose

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**

The Reverend John Flack

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Keith Burton

**MUSICIANS**

OSA Choir

Peter Holsberg, Trumpet

Lucie Gelinias, Violin

**READERS**

Rebecca Street: readings 1 & 2

Karol Wollenburg: readings 3 & 4

**Christmas Eve Services – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

4:30 PM: Kid-friendly service with carols and a retelling of the Christmas story.

7:30 PM: Carols, candlelight, and the nativity story.

**Christmas Morning Service with Communion**

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM.

**New Year's Eve**

Board Game Night & Watch Night Service

7 PM- Midnight

