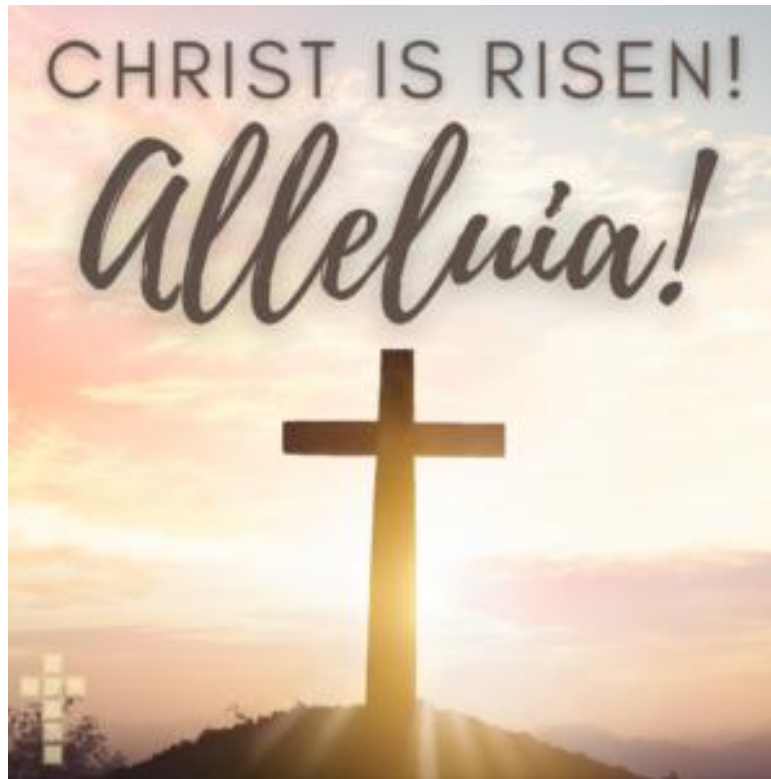


Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday, April 20, 2025

19484 James Couzens Hwy.
Detroit, MI 48235
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Doshia Strong, Licensed Lay Minister

Mission Statement

By the grace of God, Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church being of one body in Christ Jesus, made up of many parts, and having many gifts; provides a place for all to worship, praise, and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. We teach the Word of God and spread the Good News through our service to one another and community. We encourage all to come and share their various gifts and talents.

Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Sunday

Removal of the Shroud

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

Handbell Choir

Processional/Opening Hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” Tan #282

Opening Litany for Easter

P: On that first Easter morning, as the sun was dawning, Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead. The earth shook as the angel rolled the stone away.

C: No grave could hold his body down. He is risen. He is risen indeed!

P: As Mary Magdalene and the other Mary looked on in fear, the Risen Lord revealed himself to them, and they departed with great joy.

C: Rejoice! And again, I say Rejoice! For Christ Jesus has broken the curse of death and destroyed the power that it once had over us.

P: Although we live in a world filled with moral decay and violence, and although we were stripped of our original culture and our past as a people, we, like Christ, can be resurrected.

C: Give glory to God, who humbled himself, even to death on a cross. Give glory to the exalted Christ!

P: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now given to each of us and to all those that believe in him.

C: Let us receive this spiritual power and use it wisely for the liberation of all God's people.

P: Who is worthy? Christ is worthy. “Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.”

C: “Who is worthy? The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

P: Who is worthy? The One seated on the throne and the Lamb. To them be all blessing and honor and glory and might!

C: He is worthy! The Risen Christ! The Resurrected One! Praise him! Praise his Holy Name!

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Church: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 65:17-25

Marilyn Sanders

¹⁷ “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. ²⁰ “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

Responsive Reading – Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

²**Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.”**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:**

“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

¹⁷**I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

¹⁸The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³**the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Marilyn Sanders

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Gospel Acclamation

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12. **Glory to you O Lord!**

¹On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸Then they remembered his words. ⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Devotional Music

United Voices of Praise

Sermon.....Minister Doshia Strong

Hymn of the Day

This is the Day

Tan #108

New Member Litany (*congregation stands*)

Pastor: We are here this morning to welcome DeForrest Stewart into the community which is Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as a member of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so, we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church? If so, please answer: “I do.”

New Member: I do.

Pastor: I ask the congregation to join in confessing our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Pastor: Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

Congregation: We welcome you as a child of God, growing closer to God and each other through worship and learning, laughing and playing.

We welcome you as a fellow worker in God's kingdom, inviting you to grow with us in our faith, reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We welcome you as an active participant in the arts: singing, ringing, and playing, as your talents and interests lead you.

We welcome you as a brother in Christ and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in his name.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing DeForrest Stewart to Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel your presence and that others may come to know you through their interactions with us. In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen

Prayers of the Community

Lay Assistant: God of grace,

Congregation response: hear our prayer.

Announcements

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Everyone is invited to the Lord's Supper. Please raise your hand if you did not receive a communion kit, remain at your seat, an usher will bring a kit to you, and we will commune together. Children who do not receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

Post Communion Prayer

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
bless you now and always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

He Lives

Tan #275

Go in peace, serve the living God.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning and welcome to Gracious Saviour. We are grateful that you have chosen to worship and honor the Lord's name with us. If you are new to this church, we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and we warmly welcome you into the Gracious Saviour family as our brothers and our sisters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!! God bless you and enjoy your day!!

Outdoor Cleanup

The Men of Gracious Saviour are sponsoring an outdoor cleanup on Saturday, April 26th. We're asking all volunteers to be at the church at 10:30 a.m.

Monthly Food Pantry

The Gracious Saviour Community Food Pantry is open the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 11am – 1pm. The next food pantry day is **Thursday, May 1, 2025**. People can call the food pantry line at 313-634-1311 to register.

Save the Date

July 12, 2025, 5:00pm – Jazz on the Lawn

Tithes and Offering

Ways to give –

- Offering basket on the table in the Narthex
- Cash App - \$GraciousSaviourLC
- PayPal – Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church
- <https://www.gracioussaviourlutheran.org/donate/>

-Mail to the church: 19484 James Couzens Hwy., Detroit, 48235.

Thank you to our visitors. Thank you, family, for your continued support.

Gracious Saviour Meeting and Worship Links

Zoom Dial-in Numbers are the same for **ALL** Zoom Worship Services and meetings:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Adult Sunday School (Sundays, 9:00 a.m.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83844644439?pwd=dkIxVitIbFhRVXpXNHBI90WkYwQT09> Meeting ID: 83844644439 Passcode: 751445

Gracious Saviour Worship Service (Sundays, 11am)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83956719308?pwd=SXd2K1VLbmdHMmZtVFdla0VjVWtaUT09> Meeting ID: 83956719308 Password: 363447

Gracious Saviour Church Council Meeting (2nd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85253404622?pwd=YnN2WVFTQjZoK3pta2JOb2F6UW1SZz09> Meeting ID: 85253404622 Passcode: 087661

Gracious Saviour Wednesday noon Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87955430045?pwd=Wk93dCtjNGtIMUI3c2wrSnJwaWZZdz09> Meeting ID: 87955430045 Passcode: 879423

Gracious Saviour Wednesday evening Bible Study at 6:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87218267272?pwd=cUhHeWcxU3ZKRWc1bXdjNlVRM1VuUT09>

Meeting ID: 87218267272 Passcode: 750061

Gracious Saviour Jerusalem Ministry Meeting (2nd Fridays at 6:30 pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130015039?pwd=SVo1bEg2eGRHWTB5c2o1cTFsdml1Zz09> Meeting ID: 87130015039 Passcode: 672576