

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH welcomes you as you join with us in worship this day. May the Holy Spirit bless you with the message you hear from God's Word, the prayers, the hymns, and the fellowship we share with you. Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services. If you need to step out for a moment with your child, a Family Room is located right outside the Sanctuary doors.
- Changing Tables are located in the Restrooms.
- Please fill out an attendance sheet in the pad on the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We ask guests and members to fill them out each week. Guests: We promise we will not bombard you with emails or calls, but this information is helpful for staying in touch.
- Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

HOLY COMMUNION: *We are very glad that you have joined us today for this worship service as we hear the Word of God and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This church is in fellowship with other congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. As such, we believe and practice the biblical teaching that we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament (Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22). If you have a different understanding of Communion or are still learning about this biblical teaching, we love you enough to ask you not to receive Holy Communion this day (1 Corinthians 11). However, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing at the time of Communion. If later you have questions about this or any other teachings, the pastor would be very pleased to talk with you.*

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Wisdom of Faith: Seeing, Following, Worshiping

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, everyone was surprised and troubled. Few in Israel remembered God's promise through Isaiah that other nations would be attracted to them. They had forgotten that Gentiles would come bearing gifts to a future just and righteous King. Only after God worked faith in Saul/Paul's heart was the message clearly announced that all people share in the promise of Christ. Today, God's Word calls us not only to see the light of God's love in Christ but also to emulate the Magi. With joy, our faith moves us to follow where God leads and to worship our Lord, in whom alone we have boldness and access with confidence to the grace of God. That is, Epiphany is not only a celebration of the past but also a call to shine God's light in our lives today.

Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible. What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom this year?

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 60:1, 5–6; Matthew 2:2, 10–11

P Arise, shine, for your light has come.

C We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

P You shall see and be radiant.

C They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

C And they fell down and worshiped Him.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

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

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had

appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: "Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389

1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11–12

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

G who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

G But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of "Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him."

G Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.

Lord, Have Mercy

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

P For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take to His cross all our sins, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn: “The People That in Darkness Sat”

LSB 412

1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests

All pow’r in earth and heav’n,
All pow’r in earth and heav’n.
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

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Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

C Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ God Speaks to Us Through His Word +

God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet

1 Kings 3:4–15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be

numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

All Nations, Come and Praise the Lord

1 All nations, come and praise the Lord,
Extol Him, ev'ryone.
His steadfast love is great toward us;
We see it in His Son.
We see it in His Son.

2 Ascribe unto the Lord His due,
And follow in His name.
Into His courts bring off'rings true.
We give Him all acclaim.
We give Him all acclaim.

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God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

P The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing

Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

C And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

P And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him,
W *"Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress."*

P And He said to them,
M *"Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?"*

P And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them.

W *And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.*

M *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: "Within the Father's House"

LSB 410

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| <p>1 Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.</p> <p>2 The doctors of the Law
Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.</p> <p>3 Yet not to them is giv'n
The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.</p> | <p>4 The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.</p> <p>5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace</p> <p>6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One. <small>Text: Public domain</small></p> |
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God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Bailes: "Great Wisdom"

Matthew 2:1-12 & Luke 2:40-52

Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into

heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Ephesians 3:6–7, 10

P Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances.

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we many be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord, we pray for all who lead – in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church – that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, *[especially...]* that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord in Your mercy,

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your dear love: through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

We Worship God with Our Offerings

(Our offerings give us an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many ways He has blessed us. Members and regular attendees support God's mission and ministry as He works through this congregation. Guests are welcome to give an offering, but are not expected to do so. Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)

Video Song: "Offering"

Paul Baloche

+ Our Lord Comes to Us in His Body and His Blood +

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Hymn: “Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”

LSB 949

- 1 Heav’nly hosts in ceaseless worship
“Holy, holy, holy” cry;
“He who is, who was and will be,
God Almighty, Lord Most High.”
Praise and honor, pow’r and glory,
Be to Him who reigns alone!
We, with all His hands have fashioned,
Fall before the Father’s throne.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You have given us life, and life to the full as You have lavished Your love on us and welcomed us into Your family through faith in Jesus, through whom You richly and daily forgive our sins.

Grant us the fullness of Your wisdom, that as we are fueled by the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus, we live lives that reveal Your grace and mercy to all. To You alone be all glory, honor, and worship—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord’s Prayer

- C** 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.

Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Hymn: “Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”

LSB 949

- 2 All creation, all redemption,
Join to sing the Savior’s worth;
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us,
Kings and priests, to reign on earth.
Wealth and wisdom, pow’r and glory,
Honor, might, dominion, praise,
Now be His from all His creatures
And to everlasting days!

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Hymn: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

LSB 398

- 1 Hail to the Lord’s anointed,
Great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.

Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

- 5 O’er ev’ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

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Post-Communion Hymn: “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

LSB 632

- 1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.
- 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, love, and grace, in Your immense love for us from all eternity You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary. He died for the sins of the world and rose to life victoriously. Through Him we have obtained an inheritance as Your dearly loved children. We ask that You continue to walk with us as You rule our hearts and minds by Your

Holy Spirit, that we be empowered constantly by Your love for all humanity; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Blessing

Ephesians 1:3, 13–14

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. . . . In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you all. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—abide with you, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

4 Holy Jesus, ev’ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

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