

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.*

<u>OUR CONTACT INFORMATION</u>		
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<u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u>		
Pete Hames – Interim President	Contact information available upon request.	Jack & Peggy Heintschel - Evangelism
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Advent Adverbs: Resolutely

The season of Advent reminds us that we as individuals are part of the big picture of salvation planned by our God as we reflect on the coming of Christ to earth for us. We are called to be resolute, as in the words of the hymn “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”—determined and assured in Christ. We celebrate the season resolutely, sure that in Christ, God has done all that is necessary to keep us in His salvation picture for time and for eternity!

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.

Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word!

2 God’s people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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Opening Sentences

Isaiah 45:8a; Psalm 19:1, 4–6; 112:1b, 7b

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.

P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

C Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

P In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

C Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

P Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!

C His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

C **Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

C Amen.

(During the singing of the hymn, four candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.)

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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

Isaiah 7:10–17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s

house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Call Him Jesus"

Ruth Elaine Schram

God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through the Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Janice Stille

Hymn: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341 (vs. 1-2, 4)

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Bailes: "Resolved"

Matthew 1:18-25

In God We Believe

AGPS 136

- 1 In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.
- 2 In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.
- 3 God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar
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Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church as it awaits the final Advent of our Lord, that through it, the message of salvation be proclaimed, and the gifts of God be shared. And we pray for the nations of the world, that we may know times of peace and may with thankful hearts enjoy the blessings we receive.

Our Heavenly Father, Hear

tune of LSB 331

**1 Our heav'nly Father, hear The prayer we offer now.
Thy name be hallowed far and near; To Thee all nations bow.**

P As we anticipate the joys of Christmastide, we pray for our family of faith and for all Christian people in God's kingdom around the world. Help us to share confidently the blessings that we know in Christ both within our family circles and beyond them.

**2 Thy kingdom come; Thy will On earth be done in love
As saints and seraphim fulfill Thy holy will above.**

P We pray for those things needed by us as part of what we know to be our daily bread. And we remember people with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, and all on our hearts for whom our petitions are desired, [*including . . .*]. Help us to share love without limit and offer forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven by our gracious Lord.

**3 Our daily bread supply While by Thy word we live.
The guilt of our iniquity Forgive as we forgive.**

P We pray that we will not succumb to the many temptations that surround us in this and every season, and we ask that we be delivered from every evil. Inspired by and thankful for the witness of faithful Christians in times past, grant that we be led in paths of faith and faithfulness.

**4 From dark temptation's pow'r, From Satan's wiles, defend.
Deliver in the evil hour And guide us to the end.**

P With thankfulness, we ask God's blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shopworkers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people and all those who work long hours in these days. Grant that we be truly appreciative of all those who carry out their vocations for the betterment of our lives, and direct us to bring glory to God in all that we say and do.

**5 Thine shall forever be Glory and power divine;
The scepter, throne, and majesty Of heav'n and earth are Thine.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, Public domain

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)

Offertory

Interlude

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

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Holy is the Lord

195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Hymn: "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

LSB 710

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.
- G** Amen.

Blessing

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- G** Amen.

Hymn: “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

LSB 813 (vs. 1-2, 7)

- 1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your king. Refrain
- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
- 2 With voice as full and strong
As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
The psalms of ancient days. Refrain
- △ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. Refrain

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.
Text: Public domain

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