

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.*

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Blessed for Life
Our Life Sunday 2023 theme is based on Psalm 41.
Blessed with the gift of life.
Blessed by God for one's entire life.
Blessed to be a blessing to others.

Pre-Service Music:

BWV 549: Prelude & Fugue

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

BWV 553: "Little" Prelude in C

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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: "Father, We Praise Thee"

LSB 875

1. Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over,
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation:
Thus we adore Thee.
2. Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united
Joy without ending.
- △ 3. All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

Text: attr. Gregory I, c. 540–604; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936
Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" *Psalm 41:4*

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

P His heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. *Psalm 41:6*

C We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. *Psalm 41:9*

C We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

P They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies." *Psalm 41:8*

C We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

P But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up. *Psalm 41:10*

C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. *Psalm 41:11*

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

P You have upheld me because of my integrity and set me in your presence forever. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! *Psalm 41:12-13*

C **so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor. In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \pm Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Psalm 41:1-2*

C **Amen.**

Hymn: “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

LSB 814

1. O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.

2. O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!

3. 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

4. He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text: Public domain

Greeting

P The Lord be with You

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, You sent Your Son, the Word made flesh, to call us to Yourself. In response to His call, those He summoned as His disciples followed Him. By the working of the Holy Spirit, help us to hear His call, to believe in Him, and to follow where He leads, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

Genesis 1:26–31a

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Worship Video: “Lord, I Need You”

Playback Media

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God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

Ephesians 1:3–10

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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Matthew 5:1–12

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Janice Stille

Hymn: “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

LSB 794

1. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.

2. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav'nly good.

3. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
And gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support
In sorrow's gloomy hour.

△ 4. The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon: “Choose Life: Be a Blessed Blessing for Others” Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

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

P Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Heavenly Father, grant us all humility to recognize the sanctity of every human life You have created, redeemed, and called as Your own precious treasure and to receive each neighbor as gift and privilege. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Let us speak Your grace and show Your forgiveness to any whose hearts have been broken by the abortion of their own children or

by participation in any other violence against the sanctity of life, that they may turn to You in trust. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. By our witness and assistance, deliver from death, deception, and despair those scheduled for abortion, those awaiting adoption, those experiencing surprise pregnancy, those facing terminal diagnosis, those considering suicide or euthanasia, and those endangering embryonic human beings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. In our time, in our land, and the world over, bring an end to abortion, embryocide, physician-assisted suicide, and all pressures to use death as a solution to suffering. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Guide the minds and hands of medical professionals to serve as instruments of Your saving and healing care and to resist the temptation to hasten the end of any human life; and especially do we implore Your visitation and intervention to relieve the afflictions of our brothers and sisters, *[names]*. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Multiply unto us the celebrations of body, family, and length of days that we rejoice with gratitude to You for these undeserved and undivided delights. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Provide and preserve lawmakers and officials over us who safeguard the sanctity of every human life in public policy and practice and move us to support and encourage them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Open our ears and loosen our tongues to advocate for every neighbor's welfare with courage and compassion, and work calm and consensus through our respectful dialogue and enthusiastic servanthood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great. Cheer our spirits with forgiveness, faith, and fellowship, until by repentance and resurrection we enter into everlasting life before You, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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)

Offertory: BWV 619: "Christe, du Lamm Gottes"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

"Christ, the Lamb of God"

+ 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: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

- △ 1. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, almighty God, for You sent Your Son into this world to rescue us and make for Yourself an everlasting kingdom. Through Your perfect love, You have given us what we need through the all-availing sacrifice of Christ’s body and blood on the cross. As Your call to repentance remains for us this day, enable and equip us with faithful hearts to follow in faith, and grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us to do in His own testament. Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.”

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 Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Throughout all generations we have heard Your voice calling to the nations with the promise of mercy, but now, in these latter days, we have witnessed Your saving voice call out anew to deliver us from darkness to light and from death to life. Rejoicing in our Savior Jesus Christ, we plead before You the promise of His mercy, sealed in His death and resurrection, that what He began in us may be made complete. Deliver us by Your grace from all the enemies of Your Word. Break through every division and barrier that we may be made one, here in the blessed Communion of His body and blood and at last in the marriage feast of the Lamb without end.

C Amen.

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: “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

LSB 636

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| 1. Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly. | 6. Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given. |
| 3. He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were
proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given. | 8. Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me. |

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (st. 1): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 3, 6, 8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen and support us, Your pilgrim people, so that we continue to proclaim Your love to all the world. Keep us steadfast in time of suffering and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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.

C Amen.

Hymn: “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

LSB 643

- 1. Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.**
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.**

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.
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